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WORLD OF SPORT Olympic Special schedule, Israel roster It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Netanyahu may offer Egypt bigger peace role

DAVID MAKOVSKY

DURING their meeting on Thursday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is expected to offer Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a more prominent role in the peace process in a bid to dampen the current confrontational mood in the region.

Egypt has constantly sought prominence as an affirmation of its self-image as leader of the Arab world. Jordanian officials urged Netanyahu to visit Egypt before Amman or seeing other Arabs as a recognition of Cairo's role.

There are signs that the government is finding that it is in its interest to keep Cairo "inside the tent" by offering it a role, rather than to risk a potentially hostile axis between Egypt and Syria.

In an apparent move to widen a potential coalition, Syria has recently been trying to mend fences between Egypt and Iran, but Cairo has pointedly rejected such overtures.

While Cairo has been a proponent of the Golan talks, it has been an even greater proponent of the Palestinian cause. Over the weekend, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat held talks with Mubarak.

If Netanyahu can demonstrate that he is sincere on the Palestinian track, Cairo is likely to respond. So far, the government has refused to delineate measurable criteria that the Palestinians should meet for Israel to lift the closure.

Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold is expected to fly to Cairo today or tomorrow to prepare the visit. He will apparently meet with Mubarak's national security adviser Osama el-Baz.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa left for Moscow to discuss the peace process, stoking concern that he may seek to rouse Russia to take a more vocal stand on the territorial component.

Netanyahu also expressed his "disappointment" at Egypt's hosting the recent Arab summit, which warned of a serious deterioration of the peace process unless Jerusalem changed its peace policies.

In economics, the Egyptian role has been more cooperative than confrontational. Egypt is supposed to host the US-backed Middle East business summit this fall, which is a priority for the Clinton administration.

It was also a proponent of the establishment of a Cairo-based Middle East development bank. But, with Netanyahu's muted support for the bank during his Washington visit, Congress will hold back on contributing \$260 million, or 21 percent, of the bank's start-up capital over five years, which was designed to finance infrastructure projects.

Sources said the Senate will appropriate no money for the bank, but in a bid to leave open the possibility that such aid could be forthcoming, there will be a symbolic line-item authorization.



An anxious trader on the floor of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange raises her hand while attempting to sell stocks as prices on the local bourse plunged yesterday.

TASE hits 8-month low

PM, Meridor, Frenkel hold emergency talks

DAVID HARRIS, GALIT LIPKIS BECK, and news agencies

SHARES plummeted to their lowest level in eight months yesterday, as the downward spiral in the market continued for the ninth straight day, and the government announced a 0.7 percent rise in the June Cost-of-Living Index.

The Central Bureau of Statistics announced that the rise over the first six months was 7%. The projected annual rate of inflation is between 14% and 14.5%.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel were closeted late last night in an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis in the capital market.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said the CPI fig-

ures are further proof the Bank of Israel must reduce interest rates by at least 1.5%. In addition to lowering the inflation rate, Propper maintains it will bring an end to the current stock exchange crisis, if it is combined with structural changes and alterations to current pension arrangements.

Frenkel is believed unlikely to agree to lower interest rates, at least until the end of the month.

Last month's major price increases were in food, housing, health, transportation, and communications.

Housing prices increased 1.1% in June. The continuing increase since April is the result of the changing rate of the dollar and the construction inputs for housing. The cost of mortar rose by some

(Continued on Page 2)

Dow Jones suffers fourth-worst point drop

NEW YORK (AP) - US stock prices tumbled yesterday, with the Dow industrials staging its fourth-worst point drop ever, on continued worries about corporate earnings.

Technology companies led the way lower following some disappointing profit news last week. The technology-laden Nasdaq composite index plunged nearly four percent and is now near to where it began the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average, the market's most widely watched index, ended down 161.05 points, or about 2.9 percent, at 5,349.51, according to preliminary calculations at the 4 p.m. close of the New York Stock Exchange. That was the steepest slide since the 171.24-point drop of March 8. With the sell-off, the Dow now has shed 7.4 percent from the record 5,778.00 set May 22.

Treasury: IDF generals get NIS 1.4m. in retirement grants

LIAT COLLINS

FINANCE Ministry figures presented to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday claim generals receive more than NIS 1 million upon retirement, leaving committee members stunned.

The committee heard the Finance Ministry's side of the IDF budget cuts, following a meeting last week at which Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak had strongly criticized them. Finance Minister Dan Meridor was invited to attend the session.

According to the data presented by Finance Ministry budget division head Nir Gilad, a general who retires receives a NIS 1.4

million gross payment; a brigadier-general, NIS 1.1 million; a colonel, NIS 912,000; and a lieutenant-colonel, NIS 660,000. This is in addition to their pensions. The monthly gross wage of a general is NIS 27,000; a brigadier-general, NIS 22,000; a lieutenant-colonel, NIS 17,000; and a major, NIS 12,000. By comparison, the gross monthly wage of a ministry director-general is NIS 15,000.

The IDF Spokesman issued a statement flatly rejecting the Finance Ministry figures. The average gross wage of a career officer is NIS 8,055, the army

said, adding that the average monthly pension is NIS 5,500.

"The attempt to show that generals enjoy nearly a NIS 1.5 million grant has no basis," the IDF Spokesman said. "Career officers are eligible upon retirement to advance part of their pension payments to enable them to launch a new career in civilian life."

As a result of these payments, the IDF emphasized, monthly pension payments are about 25 percent less. "The sum a combat officer can receive after 25 years of service is NIS 152,000, in addition to a gross monthly grant of NIS 4,833. A major-general will

receive NIS 306,000 upon retiring, and a monthly grant of NIS 14,429 gross.

"These figures clearly show that all of the numbers quoted by the (Continued on Page 2)

Gov't defeats no-confidence motions over budget cuts

EVELYN GORDON

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday easily survived his first four no-confidence motions, by margins of 56-40 and 53-38.

Under the new law for the direct election of the prime minister, however, he would have survived even had the vote been 60-0 against him. The new law states that a prime minister can be deposed by a no-confidence vote only if 61 MKs vote against him.

The new law also states that no-confidence motions are now against the prime minister rather than the government. Should one succeed, the entire Knesset would dissolve and new elections would be called.

All four motions - submitted by Labor, Meretz, Hadash, and the Democratic Arab Party - were on the subject of the government's proposed budget cuts, which these factions charged would hurt the poor.

"I reached the conclusion that the main target is children," Yossi Sarid (Meretz) charged.

The opposition also charged that the cabinet had approved the cuts with undue haste.

Coalition MKs who responded to the motions were often equally critical of both the plan's content and the rapidity with which it was developed.

"[The government] pushed us by saying that Netanyahu has to go [to the US] with a budget," Salomo Benizri (Shas) said. "Why? The budget doesn't have to be ready for another half a year! Haste is the work of the devil."

"It will be very hard for me to vote for this budget in the future," he continued, adding that he was opposing the no-confidence motion only because he believes the plan can be altered substantially in the next six months.

However, coalition MKs also attacked the previous government. "Look at who is voting no-confidence in us, the ones under whose

rule the gap between rich and poor became the largest in the Western world," Michael Kleiner (Geshery) said.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor noted that proposals virtually identical to those he submitted were included in a 100-day plan prepared by Yossi Beilin in the event of a Labor victory. Beilin's plan even included cuts in some services which the Likud would not touch, such as reducing National Insurance Institute payments to the elderly, he said.

He also attacked Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz, who presented Labor's no-confidence motion. Meridor noted that the Histadrut's failure to fulfill its part of the Kupat Holim Clalit recovery plan had cost the Treasury more than NIS 60 million.

Meridor stressed that the government could not simply ignore a budget deficit which is expected to reach NIS 11 billion this year, and a balance of payments deficit expected to reach \$5b. If it had

done so, he said, the opposition would have attacked it, and justly so, for failing to address these problems, which could halt economic growth if they continue.

Meridor insisted that the plan would not hurt the weakest members of society. Two-thirds of all families, for instance, will not be affected by the planned cuts in child allowances, and the welfare budget will actually grow in 1997, he said.

Taxing the rich, he added, is not an option. According to Meridor, Israel's tax burden already is more than 40 percent of the gross national product - compared to "20-something percent" in the US - and 90% of these taxes are paid by the richest 20% of the population.

"There is no contradiction between economic efficiency and social sensibility," he said, adding that this combination is the government's goal.

"The people will judge, in the 2000 elections, what kind of economy we found and what kind of economy we delivered to them four years later."

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Mordechai promises slow easing of closure

ISRAEL will shortly introduce a gradual lifting of the closure of the territories, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday. Meeting with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, Mordechai said: "In the near future, we will implement a gradual easing of the closure imposed on Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This will be dependent on the Palestinian Authority's struggle against terror and the security situation."

Since the government took office, the closure has been slight-

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
ly lifted to allow about 25,000 Palestinians to work in Israel. In the meeting with Mordechai at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Bassiouny raised both the closure and the peace process. Mordechai replied that while Israel's new government is keen on advancing the peace process, it would do so "cautiously and with an emphasis on security," a ministry statement said. He warned that the peace process is still susceptible to col-

lapse if there are terror attacks. Calling relations with Egypt a "strategic asset for both nations," Mordechai hinted there is room for improvement. "There needs to be a warm peace, like the warm relations between the Egyptian ambassador and the Israeli people," he said. Mordechai asked that the Egyptians make every effort to help Israeli teams reopen searches for the bodies of soldiers killed in the Yom Kippur War. Bassiouny promised that his country would do so.

Kahalani: Budget cuts won't harm traffic or school safety

AMONG the changes Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani is considering because of the budget cuts are closing small prisons, cutting four Border Police companies, and making other government ministries pay for the VIP protection. Internal Security Ministry personnel provide. Kahalani told the Knesset Interior Committee the cuts would affect manpower, but said he would make every effort not to harm protection for schools or the Traffic Police. Regarding the demonstrations on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, Kahalani said: "I will make sure anyone who wants to send one of my men to the hospital goes there." However, he added he would review allegations of police brutality. MK

LIAT COLLINS
Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way), chairman of the Education and Culture Committee, also discussed security in schools at a meeting yesterday, saying protection there remains the highest priority. "Terrorists will hit the easiest spot for them... The government is responsible for ensuring security, and it should finance it out of taxes," he said. The committee issued several recommendations, including continuing to have a police presence around schools; placing security guards at all educational institutions; placing the overall responsibility for security on the police, in liaison with the Education Ministry; and ensuring the budget

to carry out these recommendations and complete the school safety program. Kahalani reiterated his support for the separation program promoted by his predecessor, Moshe Shahal (Labor), who also attended the meeting. He said those opposing the plan fear it would establish borders for a future Palestinian state. He stressed any security fence would be established according to tactical and strategic needs, not necessarily along the pre-1967 border. He said he favors easing the curfew for humanitarian reasons and allowing in more Palestinian workers from the territories who are above a certain age, with increased security supervision. The government is likely to discuss this step this week, he said.

Peres: Netanyahu going in the wrong direction

LIAT COLLINS

MK Shimon Peres launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, without mentioning him by name.

He told the Labor Knesset faction that Netanyahu's first official trip "had been in the wrong direction in every sense of the word." Peres said the first foreign visit should have been to an Arab country not the US, although he stressed the excellent ties between Israel and the US, and with President Bill Clinton, in particular.

He said he is "very concerned" by the new government's attitude toward the negotiations with the Syrians and Palestinians. Netanyahu is causing the Arab world to unite against Israel and is killing the peace process, he said. Peres said the Likud claimed it would not agree to preconditions to negotiations, but stated it would not be prepared to withdraw. "What is that if not a pre-condition?" he asked. He also scoffed at Netanyahu's demand that the Arab world prove it would act democratically before continuing to make progress with the peace process. "I want to believe that peace will bring democracy," Peres said. He said by waiting for democracy before peace, the government is risking being left with neither.

He warned that Iraq could have nuclear weapons within a year of the UN supervisors leaving, and stressed the need to be prepared for non-conventional war and terror, rather than conventional war. "Don't underestimate fundamentalism," he warned.

Peres called for a double coalition: with the Arab states against fundamentalism and with the world, led by the US, against terror. If the coalition against fundamentalism did not include Arab countries, he said, "it will turn into a Jewish-Muslim conflict."

Members of the Labor faction are scheduled to meet today with members of the haredi community to discuss the Rehov Bar-Ilan issue. MK Ophir Pines (Labor) is trying to reach an agreement with Meretz to hold a joint demonstration, after Shabbat, against the closure of the road.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather
FRANZ SHIMON WIELER
The funeral will be held today, Tuesday, July 16, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. at the Har Hameinuhot Cemetery
Mourning by
Doris Wieler, children and grandchildren
Shiva at Rehov Gideon 4, Jerusalem, 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Edelstein: No change to Law of Return

LIAT COLLINS

IMMIGRATION and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday he would not agree to a change to the Law of Return. Addressing the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, Edelstein said: "All the necessary measures exist to prevent undesirable elements from entering the country under this law." Rejecting a call by MK Shmuel Halper (United Torah Judaism) to change the Law of Return to prevent non-Jews from entering, he said: "Unfortunately mixed marriages are widespread in Jewish communities around the world, and they are not found in just this or that community. This is the reality, and we have to cope with it. We have found a sympathetic ear at the Chief Rabbinate on finding an acceptable solution for

immigrants who wish to convert." Opening the committee's first meeting, chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) stressed the importance of encouraging immigration and acting to bring back expatriates, who number more than 350,000 in the US alone. Edelstein said the ministry's budget had not been cut this year, despite repeated attempts by the Finance Ministry to reduce initial aid to new immigrants and assistance to immigrant scientists. However, future projects for absorbing immigrant scientists will be affected, he said. "The government's first challenge is to complete the evacuation of caravan sites and implement its decision to prepare 15,000 housing units in hostels for the elderly and single immigrants," he said.

Yishai: Welfare budget will be increased

EVERLYN GORDON

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, in his maiden appearance before a hostile Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, yesterday tried to defend the government's proposed budget cuts. Yishai pointed out that despite the cuts, the welfare budget will be increased by NIS 200 million in 1997. Furthermore, he said, though the local authorities are complaining about the lack of money in their welfare budgets, some of them

have not even used the whole sum allotted them for welfare. However, he said, he agreed with the committee that it would be possible to eliminate some of the proposed cuts, and instead force employers to pay an extra NIS 1 billion to the National Insurance Institute. Currently, the NII receives some NIS 8.2b. a year from the state budget which at one time was paid by employers. Finance

Group calls for progress in Arab sector

Jerusalem Post Staff

SIKKUY, a nonpartisan association that promotes equal opportunities for Israeli Arabs, yesterday called on the government to continue the policy of its predecessor to close gaps in inequality between Jews and Arabs. Sikkuy co-director Alouph Hareven said progress had been made by the Labor government in the areas of increased budgets to Arab municipalities, more funding for Arab schools, and the

recruiting of more than 400 Arab academics into the Civil Service. On the critical side, co-director Asad Ghanem said little was done to alleviate the acute housing shortage in Arab localities. He added that the Religious Affairs Ministry devoted only 2 percent of its budget to religious services for non-Jews, and pointed to the poor living conditions of the

(Continued from Page 1)
IDF, and it is a pity that the public is being misled." The IDF Spokesman noted that senior ministry officials will receive a 40 percent raise in October, and a senior official serving under a director-general will get NIS 19,000 a month gross, plus other perks, compared with the commander of a regular infantry unit who has served for

years in the IDF, who will only receive NIS 18,000. Gilad, who backed up his presentation with slides and charts, said at the current rate of retirement, the IDF's budget for pensioners will reach NIS 5.3 billion within 10 years. He also noted the average age for retirement from the IDF is between 42 and 43, compared with between 50 and 60 in the US and 55 and 60 in Britain. In 1995, Gilad said, NIS 9b. of the defense budget went to wages, compared with NIS 3b. for procurement. In 1985, the ratio was the reverse, he said: NIS 4b. on wages and NIS 8b. on purchases. In 1984, 25% of the defense budget was spent on salaries, compared with 48% this year, he said. The figures presented by Meridor and Gilad, and repeated in an official briefing, dealt only with the salaries of career sol-

Pinhasi to petition High Court against lifting his immunity

LIAT COLLINS

LAWYERS for MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) yesterday said they would file a High Court petition against the decision by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to ask the Knesset to lift his immunity to stand charges for fraud and falsifying documents relating to the 1988 elections.

Attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak said there is no reason to ask the House Committee to lift his client's immunity again, since such a move was overturned by the courts in 1993. The House Committee and plenum had agreed to lift Pinhasi's immunity in 1993, but following a High Court petition by Pinhasi, a revote was ordered on the grounds that the original

plenum vote had not met the rules of due process. In the revote, the plenum decided against lifting his immunity. Three weeks ago, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel petitioned the High Court, demanding Ben-Yair ask the Knesset to lift Pinhasi's immunity. Ben-Yair agreed with the petition. There is also a pending petition by Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, who claims that Pinhasi is not fit to chair the House Committee, which is responsible for hearing requests for immunity to be lifted.

Pinhasi has said that if he is elected as the committee's permanent chairman, he will not chair meetings on immunity. Sarid has said he is opposed to Pinhasi chairing the committee even temporarily.

This issue is to be discussed by the House Committee today. Yesterday, it discussed lifting Pinhasi's immunity, but the discussion was halted by Yitzhak's petition. Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar recommended postponing the discussion pending the new decision. He noted, however, that the principle of electoral equality means that an MK cannot be prevented from carrying out his duties in the House.



Meretz MK Ran Cohen makes a point at yesterday's session of the Knesset State Control Committee, as State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat (left) looks on.

'Immodest' student attacked by haredim

A 25-YEAR-OLD M.A. student from Jerusalem was attacked by a group of haredi men on Sunday night, as she tried to enter her parked car in the capital's Rehov Bnai Brith, which borders on the religious Geula neighborhood.

Police believe that the men may have been provoked by what they believe was her immodest dress. "I suddenly saw people rushing toward me from all directions, perhaps 50 of them. They came close to the car, started throwing stones

and shouting and trying to break the windows," she said.

She said that she tried to start the car, was unable to drive off and got out. She then noticed her tires had been slashed. At that point, the crowd came running toward her, she said, and started stoning her.

"One stone hit my leg. I jumped inside the car and managed to shut the door. They started trying to break the windows... I managed to push my way out and run to Rehov Hanevi'im

where, fortunately, there was a police car." She said her car was severely damaged in the attack.

Asked how she was dressed, she said: "In a summer dress. The kind any secular woman would wear, not a mini."

Jerusalem police are investigating. Eda Haredit spokesman Yehuda Meshi-Zahav condemned the attack and said efforts would be made to trace the youths involved. (Iim)

IOC rebuffs Israel protest over Palestine banner

Minister Dan Meridor opposes transferring any of this back onto employers' shoulders, since this is the equivalent of raising payroll taxes and would increase unemployment.

Committee members unanimously attacked the proposed cuts, charging they hurt the poor. "Without eliminating the decrees regarding the poor, I don't believe these budget cut proposals can pass the Knesset," committee chairman Maxim Levy said.

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Olympic chiefs yesterday quickly rejected a request from Israel that Palestinian athletes be prevented from marching at the opening ceremony behind a banner reading "Palestine."

Israel made the request to International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch through its consul-general in Atlanta, arguing that the use of the name implied that the Palestinian self-rule areas enjoyed statehood.

But IOC director-general Francois Carrard said: "The IOC position is quite clear. These sorts of request to change the name we have cleared are purely political moves. I would even say last-minute political moves."

Three athletes will compete under the Palestine banner, representing the Palestinian Authority. Carrard said the Palestinian Olympic Committee won IOC recognition in 1993.

Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer, who publicly criticized the cuts. Landau said Sheffer had acted "like the head of a union," while Dedi Zucker (Meretz) condemned him for having gone about the heads of Shahak and Mordechai.

Meridor told the committee a country's strength is judged not only by its army but also by its economy. He said prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had also understood that economic strength requires cuts in the defense budget, and as a result had slashed the budget in 1995.

He said the trade deficit had reached NIS 5.6b. and would reach NIS 11b. by the end of the year. "The only medicine is to cut government expenses," he said.

He said the Finance Ministry had originally considered telling the defense establishment to cut its budget by NIS 825 million where it saw fit. However, the IDF had told the ministry it would cut it from the military industries, causing increased unemployment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother and son killed in car accident
Fanna Ashbarga, 50, and her son Ali, 34, both died yesterday morning when the car Eli was driving swerved into the opposite lane on the Tira-Taiba road and hit a taxi head-on. An 18-month-old girl was seriously injured and three other passengers were lightly injured. Iim

Youth killed by stray bullet
Yossi Bachar, 15, suffered fatal injuries last night in Herzliya, when a gun he was handling went off. He was brought to Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, where he died. The gun belongs to the youth's friend, who works for a security company and has a license for the weapon. Iim

TASE

(Continued from Page 1)

3.5%, for example, said the CBS. Property maintenance costs also went up by 0.5%.

In the food sector, the CPI rose 1.6%. The main increases were in eggs (9.5%), flour (3.6%), and consequently bread (2.3%). Fruit and vegetable prices fell some 7.7%, with a 15.5% drop in the cost of fresh fruit, possibly because of the ongoing recovery from the initial impact of the closure on the territories.

Communications became more expensive by 5.9%, principally because of a 6% increase in the cost of telephone services. Transportation prices, which the CBS brackets with communications, went up 0.6%.

Clothing and footwear rose 0.7%, mainly influenced by a 0.9% rise in the price of shoes.

In the health sector, the CPI rose by 1.6%, largely because of increases in insurance premiums.

Responding to expectations for rising consumer prices, unchanged interest rates, and a deepening of the provident fund crisis, the benchmark Two-Sided Index of the top 100

shares dropped 5.57 points, or 3.03%, to 178.16 on a moderate turnover of NIS 98 million, against NIS 68m. on Sunday. The Maof Index fell 3.29% to 189.38.

"The market is simply falling apart. Towards the end of the day, mutual funds started selling big quantities and the indices plunged by more than 3.5%," said Gidy Halpern, an investment manager at Meitav Investments.

Banks estimate that net public withdrawals from provident funds this month will total NIS 1.5 billion to NIS 2b., against NIS 1.1b. in June and NIS 4.2b. in the first six months of the year.

"Activity rose today, but the market looks very bad. The provident fund crisis is pushing the market downward, and it seems like there's no solution for the problem," a trader at Bank Leumi said.

Experts at Banca, the country's largest investment portfolio management company, said the financial market's lackluster performance so far this year is largely attributable to political developments, and will only spring back to life if there is a comprehensive economic plan.

LITHUANIAN JEWS FIGHT BACK - 1941-45

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Foreign Minister David Levy chats with US Ambassador Martin Indyk and French Ambassador Jean-Noel de Bouillane yesterday.

Ministry to end bias over sperm donations

EVELYN GORDON

THE Health Ministry has agreed in principle to cancel regulations on sperm donation and in vitro fertilization that discriminate against unmarried women, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The court thus granted the state's request for a three-month delay in which to formulate new regulations. In the meantime, the ministry promised to grant exceptions to the current regulations on a case-by-case basis, to try to ensure that single women wanting such services can obtain them.

The announcement was in response to three petitions by several single women who had been unable to get approval for sperm donations. The petitions, filed by both the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) and the Israel Women's Network (IWN), charged that regulations requiring single women to get approval from a psychiatrist and a social worker are discriminatory, since married women do not need to do

so before getting a sperm donation.

Furthermore, said IWN attorney Rachel Ben-Ziman, many doctors are not aware that single women can get sperm donations even under these humiliating conditions, since there is still a regulation on the books saying single women are not eligible at all.

At the hearing, government attorney Osnat Mandel acknowledged that the current policy is improper, and agreed with the petitioners that ultimately, a new policy should be enshrined in legislation. In the meantime, she suggested the current regulations remain on the books, but with the understanding that the Health Ministry will make an effort on a case-by-case basis to ensure that single women do get sperm donations.

Both the petitioners and the justices objected to this, however. The petitioners said sin-

gle women should not have to go through such a humiliating procedure, and petition the High Court every time it fails. Justice Michael Cheshin said that if the current regulations are illegal, keeping them on the books, but ignoring them is an absurd solution.

Under pressure from Justices Aharon Barak, Shlomo Levine, and Cheshin, Mandel agreed that reports from a psychiatrist or a social worker should be required only if the doctor in charge thinks the specific circumstances warrant it, and that such reports would not be demanded just because a woman is single.

Attorneys Ben-Ziman, Hadass Tagari, and Dan Yakir, representing the petitioners, all argued that this solution might be worse, because it allows doctors to decide arbitrarily. However, the justices indicated that it would suffice until legislation can be drafted, and gave the government three months to prepare appropriate regulations.

Police and community services team up to improve local safety

THE police has begun working with local organizations to improve service to the man in the street and to provide solutions to minor problems.

"Unfortunately the workload imposed on the national police to combat terror, drugs, and other problems does not allow it to deal properly with local problems and with service to citizens to improve their quality of life," Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielsky said.

"The police, courts, and Prisons Service are all busy dealing with the criminal," said Ch.-Supt. Avi Bruchman, head of research for the community policing unit.

"Here we have a wonderful police force, with the forensics unit and bomb squad among the best in the world, as

well as our internal security operations," Bruchman said. "But we realized the everyday, local needs of civilians in such fields as disputes between neighbors, double parking, break-ins and domestic violence were being neglected. Each place has its own typical problems, and we are trying to provide solutions by community policing."

The success of the project depends on partnership between police, local councils, social services, schools, and organizations such as Na'amat and WIZO.

"The local council is a central partner in community policing and represents the public, together with other bodies in the community, such as parents' associations and community centers," Bruchman said.

RAINE MARCUS

The project, which Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz suggested two years ago, is the result of the work of a committee formed 18 months ago. Similar programs are currently underway in the UK, US, Scandinavia, Japan, and Australia.

So far 12 stations specializing in "problem-oriented policing" are being operated in places such as Rishon LeZion, Ashdod, and Netanya.

"Everything is computerized and civilians can come and ask for character records, apply for a temporary pistol license, or lodge a complaint," Bruchman said. "By 1998, we hope that all stations countrywide will adopt this new method."

Bruchman said he hopes that the next stage in community policing will be to treat the problems of crime victims.

Planning for community policing stations includes a three-day workshop for community bodies and police. Southern Jerusalem, which has problems with both internal security and crime, held such a workshop recently and a new "mini-station" has been opened there.

In addition, Bruchman said, community policing will include such projects as a youth crime prevention unit, involving the ministries of Education and Labor and Social Affairs and immigrant organizations.

In Ra'anana, Bielsky has adopted a variation on the community policing project, which Hefetz has approved but has

not yet been authorized by the Internal Security Ministry.

The city has no police station, and its citizens are served by Kfar Sava police. Bielsky wants to finance the appointment of 10 regular policemen to serve the city's residents. The municipality will pay the Treasury, which will then pay the Internal Security Ministry.

These policemen will not be able to serve outside Ra'anana. However, they will still be responsible to the Israel Police.

At the end of last month, some 45 council heads participated in a conference which was held in Ra'anana and attended by Hefetz and the head of the community policing unit, Cmdr. Danny Gimshee.

Tight security in place for Arad Festival

HELEN KAYE

STRINGENT security measures are in place to ensure the safety of the tens of thousands of young people expected at the Arad Festival, August 6-August 8, according to festival organizers.

Police, Magen David Adom, and the Arad Fire Department are prepared to deal with any emergency situation that may develop.

Special attention has been paid to ensuring the orderly entrance and exit. Among the measures are two entrances at each venue, and "panic button" locks on emergency exits. It was the crush that ensued last year after the collapse of a guardrail caused the death of three teenagers.

MDA measures include the deployment of 12 ambulances, three of them with intensive-care units. An ambulance will be stationed at venues of more than 1,000 seats. MDA will maintain physicians on duty; local doctors will be on call; and helicopter pads have been readied for evacuations.

Police will monitor access roads to ensure the free flow of traffic, and plainclothes and uniformed officers will be stationed at all festival sites, along with security guards. Police will have a link to ticket sales computers, so the number of fans can be monitored.

The fire department will be on standby with two vehicles, and special equipment from Beersheba, Dimona, and the Dead Sea will be on call.

Comptroller finds just a few shortcomings with Bezeq

But customer complaints often unsatisfied

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEQ spent NIS 12 million on advisers last year, many of them hired by special contract without approval from the company's committee on advisers.

This was one of the shortcomings disclosed in the state comptroller's special report on Bezeq.

The report, which covers operations only until the beginning of 1995, updates the comptroller's previous report on the company, which was issued in 1993. A spokesman for the comptroller's office explained the lag by the fact that its investigators are busy throughout the year on the massive annual report on the government.

The report praises the company for vastly improving telecommunications services and upgrading its services with the help of massive investments in infrastructure and adoption of the latest

high-tech developments.

But the comptroller said that Bezeq still has room for improvement. There are thousands of phone lines that serve large numbers of callers, and therefore frequently respond with a busy signal. It is in the company's interest to persuade such subscribers to obtain additional lines or switch equipment, but the comptroller found it has done too little to eliminate overburdened lines.

Bezeq was also found wanting regarding customer complaints. It receives many queries about "unfounded" phone bills, and the comptroller found that these are often examined only "superficially" and claimed unjustified, even though the company lacks documentation proving it had checked the lines.

Bezeq's purchase of equipment was also found faulty. When buying digital exchanges, Bezeq agreed to pay two local manufacturers a special bonus without providing the comptroller with calculations to justify this. When renewing the contract, Bezeq did not have price estimates from foreign suppliers and could not know whether they would have offered a better deal. Only in recent years did the company put pressure on local suppliers to reduce their prices to those of foreign equipment.

Automatic equipment purchased to diagnose breakdowns cost Bezeq tens of millions of dollars. The company paid exaggerated sums for maintenance, did not train staff properly in its use — and refused to grant tenure to those staffers who were well trained.

THE new law legalizing surrogate motherhood is faulty, former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu said yesterday, because in rare circumstances it allows married women to bear an infertile couple's baby.

Addressing the Second International Colloquium on Medicine, Ethics, and Jewish Law at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, Eliahu said that Halacha regards the woman who bears a child as its mother, even if the ovum came from another woman. In such cases, the commissioning parents must formally adopt the baby.

If the surrogate mother is married, however, the resulting baby would be regarded as a *manzer* (child of a couple not legally allowed to marry), and would suffer from all the halachic problems this involves. Eliahu noted that according to the Health Ministry, there are enough unmarried women willing to serve as surrogate mothers, thus the law's permission to accept married women

JUDY SIEGEL

in "unusual circumstances" is unnecessary.

The colloquium, organized by the Dr. Falk Schlesinger Institute for Medical Halachic Research, in conjunction with Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is being attended by rabbis, doctors, and ethicists from Israel and abroad.

The conference, run in the form of questions from doctors and answers by leading Israeli rabbinical arbiters, focuses on a variety of topics, including surrogate motherhood, complementary medicine, medical negligence, scarce medical resources, medical experimentation, and terminally ill patients.

At the conference, a \$25,000 prize was awarded to the family of the late Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach for his outstanding contributions to Jewish medical ethics.

Rabbi Yitzhak Zilberstein told the conference that any licensed

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children can use foster parents' name

Foster children will be able to use the surname of their foster parents, thanks to a precedent-setting ruling by Jerusalem District Court yesterday. A 16-year-old girl, who was adopted when she was a year old, was not allowed to change her surname. But after her 16th birthday, when she was legally entitled to apply for an ID card, she petitioned the court, via the National Council for the Child, to grant her her foster parents' name. Her request was granted yesterday. At 13, the girl had, of her own volition, cut off all contact with her biological mother.

Raine Marcus

Policeman sentenced for beating Arab boy

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday sentenced policeman Yona Abassi, 45, to three months' suspended for beating a Palestinian youth in July 1993 near the Temple Mount. Abassi was also ordered to perform 80 hours of community service at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. Judge Yitzhak Imbar said the offense was particularly serious because it was committed by a uniformed police officer against a 10-year-old boy.

Itim

17-year-old gets 20 years for murder

Haifa District Court, sitting as a juvenile court, yesterday sentenced a 17-year-old to 20 years' imprisonment for the murder of psychologist Eliezer Levy, whose body was discovered in December 1994 in his Haifa apartment. The court found that the youth, who had previously had a homosexual relationship with Levy, murdered him in cold blood, stole some of his belongings, then drove off in Levy's car. It did not accept the youth's version that he acted in self-defense after the psychologist made sexual advances to him. The court noted that, had the youth not been a minor, he would have received a mandatory life sentence.

Itim

MK Messala calls for apology from surgeon

JUDY SIEGEL

FORMER Sheba Hospital cardiothoracic surgeon Prof. Danny Goor is "not fit to treat patients" in a private hospital, until he apologizes for his "slander" of Ethiopian immigrants, MK Adisu Messala (Labor), chairman of the Ethiopian Immigrants Association, said yesterday.

Goor, who is close to retirement age, recently said he is leaving the government hospital to become head of the surgery department at the private Ramat Marpeh Hospital in Ramat Gan. Six months ago, during the Ethiopian immigrant blood donation affair, Goor said in an interview that due to the relatively high rate of HIV among Ethiopia immigrants, he would refuse to operate on one. Coming under fierce criticism, he later amended his statement, saying he would operate on an Ethiopian child, if he or she were in danger.

The Health Ministry opened an investigation of Goor, who previously had been accused of accepting illegal payments for surgery. The ministry has not revealed its findings.

Training agreement signed with UNESCO

ELDAD BECK

PARIS

ISRAEL and UNESCO signed a cooperation agreement on fellowship and training activities for the first time. The agreement was signed in Paris yesterday.

Under the agreement, described by Ambassador to UNESCO Avi Shoket as an historic document, both parties are to collaborate to promote a joint program that will make training courses available in Israel in UNESCO's fields of competence.

The Foreign Ministry will have full responsibility for the planning and implementation of the program, in defining fields of training, and in choosing hosting institutions.

UNESCO will be responsible for informing member states of fellowships and training activities, and will receive the candidacies from member states, evaluate them, and send them to Israel.

The joint program will remain in force for two years, with a renewable period of two years by mutual consent. The agreement

was signed by Adnan Badri, deputy director-general of UNESCO, and Haim Divoon, director-general of the international cooperation department at the Foreign Ministry.

Shoket said the program is "an indication to the deepening relations between Israel and UNESCO," emphasizing that the program will enable Israel to widen its cooperation with African countries.

During the 1970s and 1980s, UNESCO was used by Arab and Communist member states as a forum to attack Israel. This attitude caused the departure of the US from the organization. However, the fall of the Soviet Union and the Madrid peace conference, as well as financial difficulties, connected to the US boycott, have brought a significant change in UNESCO's approach to Israel.

Under director-general Federico Mayor the organization was opened to Israeli researchers and ties between UNESCO and Israel have been strengthened.

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Yeltsin suddenly calls off meeting with Gore

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin abruptly went on vacation and postponed a meeting yesterday with US Vice President Al Gore, turning attention once again to the Russian leader's flagging health.

Aides insisted Yeltsin was well and would meet with Gore today, probably at the government health resort outside Moscow where Yeltsin began a two-week vacation Sunday.

"The president's tired. He's really very tired, and he just needs a good, proper rest," Yeltsin's chief spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, told reporters in the Kremlin.

"He has not gotten sick," Medvedev said doctors might examine Yeltsin during the vacation. He said the president was working 16- and 17-hour days during his re-election campaign and now faces pressures to form a new government.

Yeltsin did continue shaking up his government yesterday, naming prominent young reformer and campaign aide Anatoly Chubais to replace hard-liner Nikolai Yegorov as chief of staff.

Chubais was ousted from the Cabinet in an anti-reform sweep in January. The 41-year-old had overseen the unpopular push to sell state property to private owners. He made a political comeback, however, as a top campaign strategist for Yeltsin.

Yeltsin won re-election on July 3, and his office said he wanted to take a short summer break before his inauguration, on Aug. 9. They said he is taking two weeks off at the health resort in Barvikha about 12 km northwest of Moscow.

JULIA RUBIN
MOSCOW

The vacation was not announced, however, until yesterday morning, after reporters had already gathered at the Kremlin for Yeltsin's scheduled meeting with Gore. It followed a string of no-shows that renewed worries in recent weeks about Yeltsin's fitness.

"He's OK," Igor Ignatiev, chief of the presidential press service, told reporters yesterday morning. "He just decided to take a vacation."

Gore arrived in Moscow on Saturday mainly for meetings on economic issues with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Cabinet members from both governments. Gore and Chernomyrdin met on Sunday and yesterday, and the commission opened its two-day session later yesterday.

Asked by reporters about his meeting with Yeltsin, Gore said, "I learned this morning that it would be postponed until tomorrow."

Chernomyrdin said Yeltsin's vacation was planned and his health was "normal. He is resting."

The 65-year-old Yeltsin largely disappeared from view before the final round of presidential elections, and his energetic campaign clearly took a hard toll on his health. Aides said he had a bad cold, and his wife, Naina, said he needs a rest.

He has appeared only rarely since his re-election, mainly in state television footage.

Yeltsin was hospitalized twice last year for acute ischemia, a

heart problem. He also has suffered in recent years from back trouble and other ailments.

Yeltsin has refused in recent weeks even to allow his blood pressure to be measured, and has not had a real checkup since late last year, Medvedev said yesterday.

"It's very difficult for the doctors," he said.

The spokesman said Yeltsin's meeting with Gore was a working meeting that could easily be rescheduled.

Gore meets about every six months with Chernomyrdin and the commission on a variety of nuts-and-bolts issues.

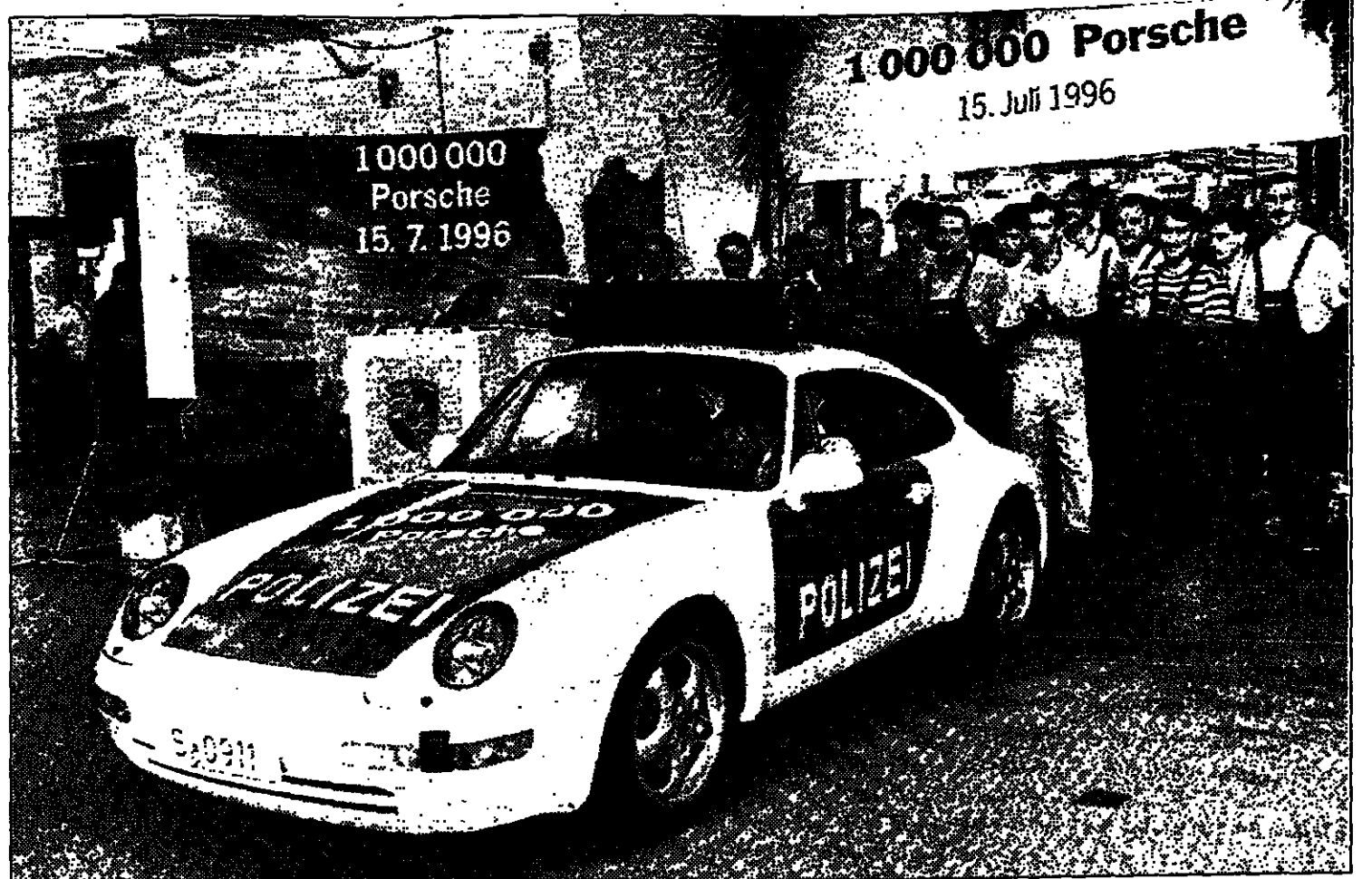
This time, he was bringing a stern message of disapproval from Washington over the Kremlin's latest military offensive in break-away Chechnya.

But Gore greeted Chernomyrdin at the Russian government building yesterday with a huge smile and hearty handshake.

The commission's meeting opened with a moment of silence for Ron Brown, the late US Secretary of Commerce and a participant in past commission meetings, who died in a plane crash in April in the former Yugoslavia.

Chernomyrdin told the group that Yeltsin's re-election "absolutely confirms the stability of Russia's political course for continuing profound reforms."

Gore congratulated Russians for choosing "a bright future for themselves." He said the commission hoped to "forge a productive, dynamic and above all normal relationship between our nations and our people."



Porsche workers applaud yesterday as the company's one millionth "sportswagen" rolls off the assembly line at the manufacturer's Stuttgart plant. Porsche has been making cars for 50 years. (Reuters)

Hindu shrine stampede leaves 58 dead

NEW DELHI (AP) — Pilgrims seeking the help of a Hindu god stampeded as they crammed into shrines in two towns yesterday, crushing at least 58 people to death and injuring 40 others.

Indian news agencies said hundreds of thousands of worshippers gathered for the festival of Somavati Amavasya, an astrological configuration marked by devotees of Shiva, the god of preservation and one of Hinduism's principal deities.

The holiday was keyed to the appearance of the new moon yesterday at a time when Mars is moving through the zodiacal sign of Gemini, making people vulnerable to problems, according to astrologers.

At such time — the last one was 27 years ago — many Hindus seek the help of Shiva to avoid difficulties, said K.N. Rao, a professor of astrology at a New Delhi college.

Thousands of people were pushing into the Mahakaleswar temple in the holy city of Ujjain in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh when the crowd went out of control, the Press Trust of India and United News of India news agencies reported.

Police said at least 37 people were killed and 40 others injured when bamboo barricades regulating the flow of pilgrims gave way and several of the worshippers were impaled on the stakes, said United News, quoting witnesses.

Others slipped on the marble stairs leading to an underground idol of Shiva. The passage can accommodate only four of five people at a time.

A similar stampede broke out in the holy city of Haridwar on the banks of the Ganges River, 200 km north of New Delhi.

Press Trust said at least 21 people were killed there as pilgrims tried to push their way across a narrow bridge over the Ganges.

Eighteen women, two men and one child died in the stampede at Haridwar, said, quoting Rajinder Soni, a local administrator. Some 1.5 million people had gathered in the town to bathe in the Ganges.

In Ujjain, most of the pilgrims had just completed a ritual bathing in the Kshipra River just before dawn, the reports said, quoting local police.

The devotees were kept waiting while a top local government official offered prayers, said

S.K. Vatsa, one of the pilgrims. When the doors were opened, the throng surged forward and many people fell over one another.

At the government hospital in Ujjain, thousands of people milled about, trying to identify the bodies of their loved ones in the courtyard.

Ujjain, a town which has special significance to followers of Shiva, is about 750 km south of New Delhi. It is considered to be one of the seven most sacred cities of Hinduism.

Haridwar, another of the seven holy cities, is inhabited by hundreds of Hindus ascetics and priests. The Ganges River, which originates in the Himalayas, begins its journey across the plains at Haridwar.

The often frenzied worship at specific hours by throngs of Hindus has led to tragedies in the past. In 1992, a stampede in the southern town of Kumbakonam during a religious holiday killed 50 people.

The worst stampede in recent years was at a political demonstration of tribespeople demanding job quotas in Nagpur two years ago. About 120 people were killed and 500 injured when police tried to break up the demonstration.

Albright takes on Cyprus problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-level US delegation set out for the eastern Mediterranean bearing new ideas for easing frictions on Cyprus, where UN-sponsored peace efforts have been stalemated for years.

American UN ambassador Madeleine Albright left yesterday for talks starting today in Greece. Her itinerary also includes visits to Cyprus and

Turkey. Her visit comes in the week of the 22nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus on July 20, a time marked with celebrations on the Turkish side and protests on the Greek side.

Cyprus was divided in 1974 when Turkish troops invaded to foil a plan to unify with Greece. Turkish Cypriots, who control the northern third of the island,

declared independence in November 1983. Only Turkey recognizes the state of northern Cyprus.

Officials said Albright will explore the possibility of arms and troop reductions — more than 30,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy the northern third of Cyprus. Officials said Greek Cypriots also have been getting arms of increasing sophistication.

Chirac, Mandela discuss Africa cooperation

PARIS (Reuters) — French President Jacques Chirac yesterday offered his guest Nelson Mandela a partnership to help build a new Africa, while the South African president appealed for more investment by French business.

Meeting the one-time prisoner of apartheid for the third time in as many days, Chirac paid an enthusiastic tribute to Mandela for embodying "the rejection of infamy."

In a lunch speech at the Elysee palace, Chirac followed in the footsteps of his predecessor Francois Mitterrand, who struggled in vain to build a relationship with Mandela based on a more interventionist South Africa.

"Our experiences and our African ambitions are complementary. I suggest we think and work together on how to develop the African continent," said the heir to the Gaullist legacy of strong colonial ties with Africa.

Chirac said France trusted South Africa's political and economic choices and promised to spare no effort in drumming up French investment.

At an earlier ceremony marked by academic

pomp, Mandela had likened his battle against apartheid to France's 1789 revolution and appealed for massive investment in South Africa.

Clad in the black gown of a Paris scholar as he accepted an honorary diploma from the Sorbonne University, he sought to allay concerns at political tension and a crime wave deterring foreign business.

Efforts to improve South Africa's economy, and to come to terms with the suffering of apartheid, were a vital part of what he called "our revolution" and he appealed to foreign business to become involved.

"The actions of French business in establishing and expanding operations in South Africa and making major investments in South African enterprises, testify to a positive judgement of our future," he said.

Mandela was due to meet French industrialists today and try to reassure them about remaining exchange controls and delays in a privatization program announced last year.

France is South Africa's sixth-largest trading partner.

BRUNEI (AP) — Prince Charles, Michael Jackson and about 3,000 guests from around the world attended an extravagant 50th birthday dinner for the world's richest man yesterday.

The private dinner hosted by Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah was held in one of the halls at his home — the 1,778-room Istana Nurul Iman palace, the world's largest residence.

The palace on the banks of Brunei River was lit up by floodlights, glowing like a giant pearl. All around, the usually laid-back Brunei capital was bedecked with tens of thousands of colored lights, flags and bunting as the oil-rich sultanate enjoyed its most lavish party. Celebrations will last 15 days.

A London production company has been hired to make a wide-screen state-of-the-art digital home video of his party. Edit suites have

been set up at the palace for a team of cameramen, editors and producers.

Jackson, said to be the sultan's favorite pop star, arrived Saturday in the Borneo island country and will give a public concert today. But fans won't have to pay to hear him — the sultan is picking up the undisclosed tab.

More than 30,000 fans — many flying in from Malaysia and Indonesia — are expected to attend the concert. Airlines said all flights to Bandar Seri Begawan are full. The city's few hotels are packed to capacity.

Jackson is the latest in a string of Western pop stars invited by the sultan to perform, but only the first to give a public performance. Previous stars who sang for the sultan privately are Elton John, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Bon Jovi and Tina Turner.

Jackson's concert will officially inaugurate a man-made garden in a multibillion-dollar amusement park, built by the sultan as a gift to his 200,000 subjects and tourists. Entrance to the park and rides are free.

The sultan can afford to be generous. One of the world's few absolute monarchs, Hassanal presides over his tiny kingdom's vast oil income and foreign currency reserves estimated at more than \$37 billion. In comparison, Microsoft's Bill Gates, the world's richest private citizen, has an estimated fortune of only \$18 billion.

The sultan earns \$100 a second from investments, oil earnings etc, which amounts to \$2 billion a year.

The celebrations began early yesterday when the sultan, dressed in a medal-covered military uniform, inspected a military parade at a stadium in the city center. In attendance were government officials, businessmen, diplomats and

the sultan's foreign guests.

Hassanal also is the country's prime minister and defense minister.

He arrived in a black Rolls Royce. Cannons boomed. Getting off the car, the sultan greeted Charles with a grin. Jackson wasn't seen. Later, Charles flew into the depths of Borneo's rainforests in one of sultan's helicopters to visit a nature project before returning for the banquet.

Charles, who arrived leaving behind a divorce settlement with Princess Diana, presented the sultan with a walking stick and an ornamental silver box with a water color painting inlaid into the lid he painted himself.

To mark the occasion, the state-run Royal Brunei Airlines is offering a 50 percent discount to economy class passengers to nine Asian destinations for a month beginning Thursday.

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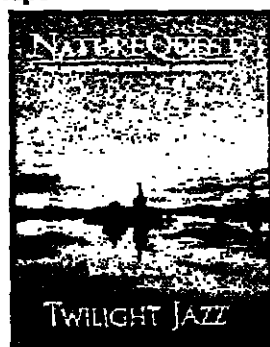
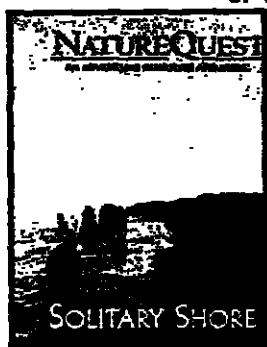
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We'll visit Beit Gavriel on the Kinneret, Kfar Haruv and Mitzpe Shalom, the yeshiva at Hispin, the wineries at Katzin, the Druse village of Ein Kinya, Emek Habacha, Kibbutz Ein Zivan, Gamla, and more. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wild animals.

The date: Wednesday/Thursday, August 28 and 29, 1996.

The price: NIS 550. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch on the second.

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02-241282

Italy seeks life for ex-SS captain Priebke

ROME (Reuters) - The prosecutor at the war crimes trial of former SS captain Erich Priebke asked an Italian military court yesterday to sentence the 82-year-old defendant to life in prison.

Priebke showed no emotion as military prosecutor Antonino Intelsano ended his nearly four-hour summation of the case with a request that the German be jailed for life.

"Having established the responsibility of the defendant, the prosecution asks that the punishment of justice be applied: life in prison," Intelsano said.

Priebke is accused of being one of the main organisers of the SS massacre of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves on March 24, 1944 during the Nazi German occupation of Rome.

Relatives of some of the victims applauded in court when Intelsano made his recommendation. Intelsano maintained that Priebke, who had been assigned to the SS headquarters in Rome, was present at every stage of the massacre, which he called a "macabre act of revenge".

The SS carried out Italy's worst wartime atrocity after Italian partisans killed 33 German soldiers in a bomb attack in Rome a day earlier.

"Priebke was at the Ardeatine Caves from the start to the finish of the operation," the prosecutor said. "He had the list and marked off the names of the victims as they were led into the caves in groups of five."

"Once inside, the victims were

forced to kneel and then the shot came," Intelsano said, holding his hand like a gun to the back of his head. Seventy-five of the victims were Jews.

Priebke has admitted personally shooting two of the victims, but said he would have been killed himself if he had refused to follow orders.

Intelsano discounted this defense argument, saying documents admitted as evidence showed SS officers who disobeyed orders were court-martialed and sent to the front to fight.

"Priebke was in a position to be aware of the manifest criminality of the orders," he said.

Defense attorney Vello di Rezze told journalists he would ask the court to take account of "mitigating circumstances".

"He only followed orders and then for 50 years led an exemplary life," di Rezze said.

Priebke was extradited to Italy last November from Argentina, where he had lived under his own identity since 1948 in the Andean mountain resort of Bariloche as a shopkeeper and hotelier.

Since arriving in Italy, he has been held in preventive custody at a military prison in Rome.

His trial opened on May 8 and has been dogged by controversy, including prosecution allegations of bias among the judges towards Priebke.

It continues today with closing arguments from lawyers for relatives of victims, who are attached to the case as civil plaintiffs. The defense is expected to sum up Friday.



Family and friends of Dermot McShane mourn by his graveside during his funeral in Londonderry yesterday. McShane died after being run over by an army armored vehicle during riots in the city on Friday. (Reuters)

Thousands attend Ulster riot funeral; Britain arrests IRA suspects

CATHOLICS united yesterday at the funeral of an anti-IRA militant slain in week-long riots that left Northern Ireland's peace process in shreds.

Several thousand mourners walked behind the hearse bearing 35-year-old Dermot "Tony" McShane in Londonderry, the province's second-largest and mostly Catholic town.

On the mainland, British anti-terrorist police yesterday arrested seven men, seizing enough components to make 36 bombs and said they had narrowly averted a series of IRA attacks in London and the south-east of England.

McShane was fatally wounded Saturday when an armored vehicle rammed a barricade being used by several men lobbing gasoline bombs. His coffin was covered with an Irish flag and buried in the cemetery plot reserved for members of the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army, a rival splinter gang of the IRA.

In a sign of how anger at the British government's handling of last week's Protestant marches has united Catholics, the mourners included Martin McGuinness, a senior figure in the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, and John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, Sinn Fein's moderate rival for Catholic votes.

"It's been a dark week in our city. The death of Dermot revives memories of years past," said the Rev. said the Rev. Con McLoughlin, who conducted the funeral at St. Columba's Roman Catholic church.

"Scarcely in the 21 years that I have been here have I found people so saddened and depressed almost to the point of despair," the priest told the packed church. "Almost every

family in this parish had suffered in the course of 'the troubles.' The hope had been that, just maybe, the nightmare was over."

In London, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the senior British official in Northern Ireland, announced a wide-ranging review of the routing and policing of parades, but seemed pessimistic about what could be achieved.

"There are no immediately obvious answers," Mayhew told the House of Commons. Other lawmakers, however, pointed accusingly at the pro-British unionist parties.

"We in this house are entitled to expect that fellow parliamentarians... show a higher standard of leadership than we saw last week - higher leadership than simply saying, 'there is a crowd. I must follow it,'" said Sir David Steel of the Liberal Democratic Party.

"I believe we were only a few hours away from grave loss of life in London and the south-east," police commander John Grieve told a news conference hours after his men had swooped on four south London addresses.

"A substantial amount of bomb-making equipment was recovered at these addresses... including components to make 36 devices, including time and power units," Grieve said.

"The number of devices suggests there was to be a whole series of attacks over a prolonged period," he added, describing the operation as a "significant success in our struggle against Irish Republican Army terrorism."

The arrested men were being held under the

prevention of terrorism act, which is normally used to counter activities linked to the Northern Ireland conflict.

It was the second major find of bomb-making material in London since the IRA ended a 17-month old ceasefire in February in protest at what it saw as British intransigence in the Northern Ireland peace process.

"We recovered a quantity of documentation including maps and false identities for those who had been targeting London's utilities," Grieve said, but declined to elaborate.

In February police found vast amounts of Semtex explosives and other bomb-making material at the home of an IRA agent who killed himself with his own bomb on a London bus.

The IRA have planted seven bombs in Britain since February including a truck bomb which blew up a shopping centre in Manchester in June, injuring some 200 people.

Yesterday's arrests followed a joint campaign by police and the SIS secret security service, which has recently been given increased powers to track down terrorists.

Residents in one south London street cordoned off by police overnight reported hearing gunfire during the swoop, but Grieve said the police had in fact been discharging tear gas into the homes to minimize resistance.

Police hunting the Manchester bombers said yesterday they believed they had found the getaway car used in the attack.

Two weeks ago the IRA targeted British servicemen abroad for the first time in six years, firing three mortars at an army base in Osnabrueck, Germany. There were no injuries, but several buildings were badly damaged.

Four dead, 36 injured in Dutch plane crash

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands - Four people were feared dead and 36 injured after a Hercules cargo plane crashed near Eindhoven airport in the Netherlands yesterday, Dutch television said.

A spokesman for the Eindhoven fire brigade was unable to confirm the figures. "It's just happened, it's chaos out there," he said.

He said the fire brigade had sent around 100 crew to the scene.

The military plane crashed at the air force base in the southern Netherlands. The four-engine turboprop came down about 6 p.m. but the circumstances of the crash were not immediately available.

The nationality of the aircraft used by many NATO air forces was not immediately known, but Eindhoven is the base for the Royal Dutch Air Force Squadron 334 of Hercules planes.

The aircraft normally carries four crew members.

Eindhoven air force base is 200 km south of Amsterdam. (Agencies)

135 die in Bengal floods

CALCUTTA (Reuters) - About 135 people were feared killed and some 1.9 million made homeless in eastern India and Bangladesh by floods and landslides after four days of torrential monsoon rains, local officials said yesterday.

Officials in the north-eastern state of Assam, home to 22.4 million people, said heavy annual flooding had claimed at least 20 lives and left a staggering 1.7 million people without homes.

"It's still raining," a resident in the state's capital, Guwahati, said by telephone. "It's very bad now and it's going to continue."

The Assam government set up 150 relief camps to provide shelter and food to the homeless and troops worked around the clock to rescue marooned villagers and reopen roads.

Flooding is an annual event for people living in the northeast of India, which is said to have the highest rainfall in the world due to a rainy season which lasts until September.

Roughly 100 million of the country's 930 million people live in the affected areas.

Landslides in the West Bengal district of Darjeeling killed 47 people during the weekend and another 20 died in floods in the state's districts of Coochbehar and Jalpaiguri, many of them as they tried to flee across swollen rivers in boats.

Eight houses in the nearby district of Kalimpong were engulfed by a landslide, and authorities feared a further 40 lives had been lost.

State officials, who estimated more than six cm of rain had fallen in the three days since Thursday, said troops had been called in to help with rescue operations and clear the national highway.

The state government has set up more than 500 relief camps, earmarked 500,000 rupees (NIS 45,000) in emergency aid and rushed medical teams, rice, wheat and tarpaulins to the area.

West Bengal Finance Minister Asim Dasgupta said he would submit a full report on the flood situation to Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda as soon as possible.

The Himalayan foothill state of Sikkim, also hit by heavy rains, was cut off from the rest of India yesterday after landslides blocked roads.

European Court tosses out Jackal's unfair arrest suit

PARIS - Europe's top human rights court yesterday tossed out a lawsuit filed by terrorist Carlos the Jackal, who contends French agents illegally arrested him in Sudan in 1994.

The European Court for Human Rights said Carlos' complaint was unfounded. France Info radio reported. His lawyers had sued claiming he was "kidnapped" in Sudan by French authorities who lacked an international arrest warrant.

Carlos did not immediately respond to the ruling by the court, based in the eastern city of Strasbourg.

The 46-year-old Venezuelan-born convict, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was arrested on Aug. 14, 1994, in Sudan and taken in chains to Paris.

Carlos alleges he was drugged, tied up and handed to French agents by Sudanese authorities at Khartoum airport in a shadowy deal. France says he was legally extradited. He has been been

held at a maximum-security prison in solitary confinement.

By his own count, the global gun-for-hire has killed 83 people in a gruesome spree of bombings, hijackings and assassinations.

Authorities have at various times linked him to the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the 1976 hijacking of an Air France jet to Uganda. His most audacious operation was to kidnap 11 ministers at an OPEC conference in Vienna in 1975.

In 1992, Carlos convicted and sentenced Carlos in absentia to life in prison for the killing of two French counterintelligence agents in 1975. By law, France must retry him now that he's in custody, but a trial date has not been set.

In February, the self-proclaimed revolutionary was charged in a 1974 grenade attack at a cafe in the heart of Paris that killed two people and wounded 34 others. (Agencies)

Clinton looks at anti-Cuba options

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With a deadline looming, President Bill Clinton considered yesterday whether to implement a tough anti-Cuba law and was said to be searching for a compromise to avoid drawing the ire of key US allies.

From his leafy mountain retreat at Camp David, Maryland, Clinton was reviewing his options on the Helms-Burton Act. He was under immense pressure from allies to waive controversial provisions of the law, which he must do by midnight today if he wants to keep them from going into effect automatically.

"We're searching for a compromise that will be the greatest benefit to all interested parties," said a White House official who asked not to be identified. "For the president this is a difficult choice and it is a choice where he will not please all of the constituencies involved."

He declined to elaborate, saying he could not discuss the options.

In Brussels, European Union foreign ministers were bracing for the worst and discussing how to respond. European Commission Jacques Santer promised a swift, decisive response.

"We must react and must react today," Santer said.

The Helms-Burton Act, named after its congressional sponsors, is designed to pressure Cuba to adopt democratic reforms. It was signed into law by Clinton in March after Cuba shot down two civilian aircraft the month before, killing the four Cuban-American fliers on board.

Title III of the law allows lawsuits to be filed in US courts against foreign firms that buy or sell the properties of US citizens seized by the government of Cuban President Fidel Castro after the 1959 Cuban revolution.

Diana, Charles begin formal divorce proceedings

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana began divorce proceedings yesterday to end their 15-year marriage, which started with a dream wedding and ended in a loveless nightmare.

Neither the heir to the British throne nor the former Lady Diana Spencer, whose 1981 wedding at St Paul's cathedral was televised worldwide, was present at the three-minute divorce hearing in a drab London courtroom.

Judge Gerald Angel granted the couple a "decree nisi", the first stage of a divorce that will become final on August 28, when a "decree absolute" is granted. The decree nisi said the marriage had "irretrievably" broken down.

The divorce was by mutual consent on the grounds that they have been separated for more than two years.

In a court affidavit later released to the media, the prince said he and the princess officially

separated in November 1993. He added: "Both myself and the respondent recognized there were irreconcilable differences and that accordingly we could no longer live together."

But Charles apparently lost track of time when he signed the papers for his divorce, because he slipped up over the date when they separated.

In his affidavit submitted for the divorce proceedings he said, Prime Minister John Major announced his separation from Diana to parliament in November 1993. In fact the announcement was made in November 1992.

Lawyers for Charles, 47, and Diana, 35, announced on Friday that they had agreed the terms of the royal divorce settlement.

Diana will lose the title Her Royal Highness but will receive a lump sum from the prince estimated at 17 million pounds (NIS 86 million).

Although divorced, the princess, who is the mother of the

next king but one, will still be regarded as a member of the royal family, according to Buckingham Palace.

On the day their divorce came to court, the royal couple were at opposite ends of the earth.

Prince Charles was in Brunei, where he is taking part in 50th birthday celebrations for the Sultan. The princess was in London at Kensington Palace, the royal residence she will keep as part of the divorce settlement.

She is understood to be planning a holiday this week in France with her sons, Prince William, 14, and Prince Harry, 11.

They will be accompanied by the Duchess of York, herself recently divorced from Charles' younger brother, Prince Andrew.

Diana made an appeal for privacy after being hounded by news photographers.

In a statement, her spokeswoman said: "She has asked that her sons and their parents are given some understanding at a sad time for all of them."

Agreement on the divorce follows weeks of wrangling by the couple and their lawyers that exasperated Queen Elizabeth and exposed the monarchy to ridicule in the eyes of her people.

The world watched with misty eyes when Charles married the shy, blonde Diana in St Paul's Cathedral in 1981. But the couple became increasingly estranged from the mid-1980s and then separated entirely.

Both subsequently admitted adultery. Diana said she had suffered from an eating disorder and had deliberately injured herself in an attempt to attract attention from a cold husband.

Dole slipping further in polls

NEW YORK (AP) - Bob Dole has fallen further behind President Clinton as large numbers of voters defect from the likely Republican presidential nominee, a poll released yesterday found.

Dole lost 7 percentage points in the last three weeks, falling to 30%, while Clinton held steady at 54% in a hypothetical two-way matchup, according to the poll for the new MSNBC cable network and Internet site.

In a three-way race, Clinton got 50%, Dole 25% and Ross Perot 13%, according to the national telephone survey of 804 registered voters conducted July 12-14. An NBC-Wall Street Journal poll June 20-25 gave Clinton 47%, Dole 32% and Perot 13%.

With a sampling-error margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points in the new poll and 2.5 points in its predecessor, Dole's drop is significant.

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Messing with the market

THERE is little to be said for facing off against a stampeding herd. Yet that is what numerous commentators, politicians and businessmen seem to want of the government and the Bank of Israel right now, with their calls to lower interest rates and take other emergency measures. But however the government and the central bank might try to sweeten the pot, there is little they can do to entice panicked savers (and probably money managers too) back from the safety of bank deposits and savings plans.

Stock markets are generally credited with predicting economic events several months in advance. And the TASE is probably not wide of the mark. The previous government mismanaged the economy, spending what it could not afford and leaving the nation with a massive overdraft. Sooner or later the country was going to have to pay the price and, to its credit, the new government wasted no time in grasping the nettle. But with burgeoning inflation, a current-account deficit lurching towards crisis proportions and an overspent budget, the pain was inevitable.

Higher interest rates and reduced spending, the only remedies sensibly available to the government (raising taxes is just a way of cutting people's incentive to work hard and produce economic growth, and of ensuring they have maximum reason to evade taxes), mean that the economy slows. Corporate profits duly fall, resulting in lower company values and stock prices. The stock market, having seen this all before, cuts prices several months in advance. As inflation comes under control, interest rates can fall and the economy can begin to grow, with the stock market having predicted this, and acted upon it, around six months earlier. It's a well known phenomenon found all over the world. It's called the economic cycle.

All this does not mean that all is well with Israel's capital market and that now might not be a good opportunity to eliminate some troublesome anomalies. But anyone who thinks that some tweaking here and there is going to make any significant short-term difference to the stock market is very much mistaken. The numerous economic plans unveiled by the Japanese government over the last few years, in vain efforts to revive the ailing Tokyo stock exchange, are adequate proof of that.

In the good old bygone days of socialism, when no one lived for very long after they stopped working, generous, state-subsidized pensions were all very well. Now, with life

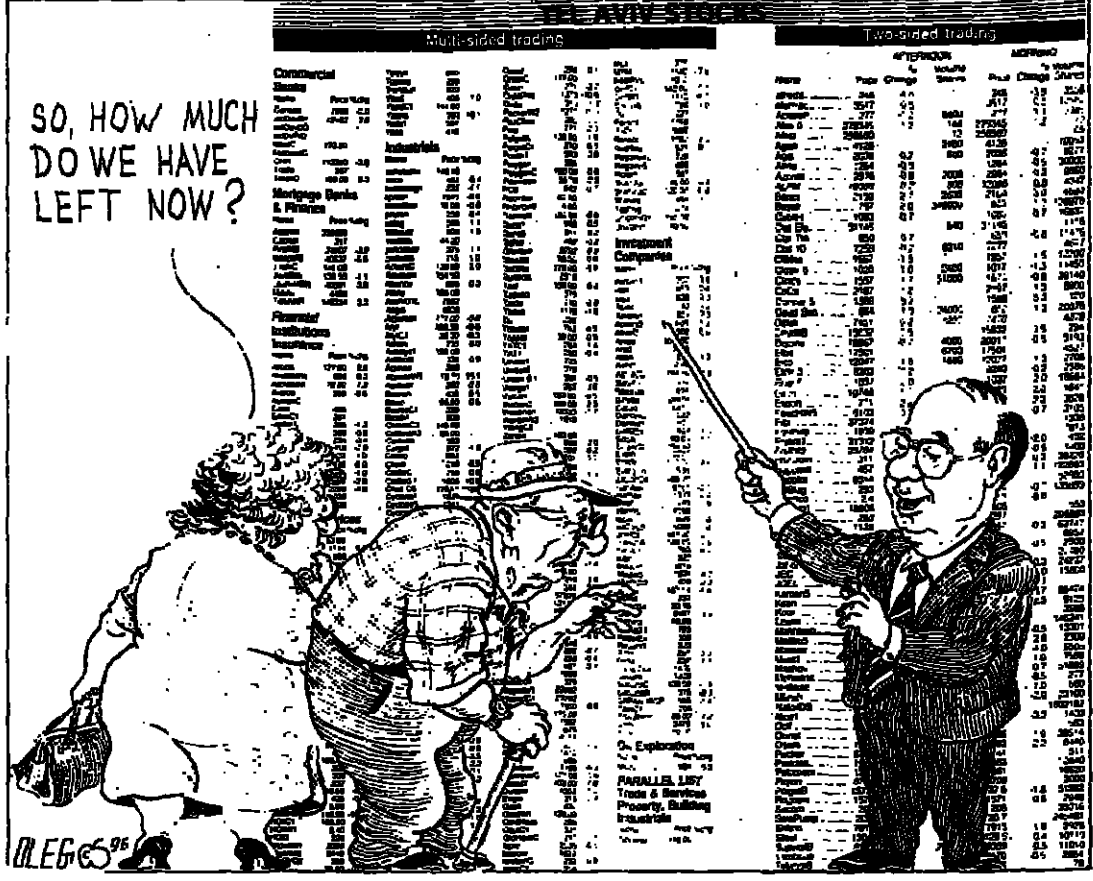
expectancy rising, the costs of old age are spiraling out of control. If the government is to continue to guarantee pension levels something somewhere is going to have to give. Either the government will forgo significant parts of its spending to finance pension subsidies, or they will just print the money to meet their obligations and inflation be damned (see Labor, 1992-1996).

As other Western countries are increasingly realizing, workers will have to take responsibility for their retirement. They will have to save more and start sooner if they want a comfortable old age. That subsidies are provided by the government to the pension funds is an increasingly dangerous and unaffordable anomaly, which also happens to divert funds from other investments.

Tax anomalies, too, abound. Local stock market gains, savings plans, bank deposits and income from letting residential property are tax-free. Gains made on foreign stock markets and bond interest attract 35% tax, while investment in private companies (arguably, the most economically productive form of investment) is taxed at the taxpayer's highest marginal rate (up to 50%). In the US and the UK the source of gains is generally disregarded for tax purposes. What does make a difference is how long one holds the asset. With certain restrictions, long-term holdings, particularly in stocks, are taxed more favorably than the profits of short-term speculation. And savers can tailor or manage their own (long-term) portfolios without being forced, as Israelis are, into costly and poorly managed provident funds.

Ironing out tax anomalies is certainly just and sensible. But one of the central rules of investing is that tax considerations should be secondary to the profit-making potential and risk profile of the investment. One of the TASE's biggest problems is that the playing field is anything but even.

With company law, securities regulation and corporate governance the way they are, the game is rigged in favor of company owners and executives who make sure, via salaries, bonuses and stock option schemes that they vote themselves, that any value they create is not shared with other shareholders. Until company law is rewritten and investing institutions start to mobilize their voting power, many investors will simply take the view that there is little point in investing in companies which, no matter how micro-economically attractive their business, have little or no interest in maximizing profits, dividends and share price.



The man in the car

WHAT'S a life worth? Should we spend our limited health-care resources on vastly expensive transplant operations for the few or on better child care to benefit the many? How many meters of land are we prepared to give up for one soldier's life? Issues like this divide the country. But when it comes to what happens on our roads agreement is unanimous. The price of our current driving habits — some 500 dead each year — why, that's just fine!

We drivers may not always obey the law, but accidents do. They obey the laws of statistics. We know exactly how many people will die for a 10-kph increase in the speed limit, how many will die for a 10-percent increase in the number of cars on the road. We don't know their names, but their numbers are a statistical certainty.

So what's a life worth? A 13-percent increase in the cost of public transport will move a statistically predictable number of commuters off the buses and into their cars. That will, in turn, bring about a statistically predictable number of dead and injured. Clearly the government considers the extra revenue worth the cost.

Similarly, a speed limit upped to 100 kph on selected highways is going to cost more lives. Again clearly, the driving public — that's you and me — feels that five minutes saved on the journey between Tel Aviv and Haifa is well worth the cost.

Let's be honest with ourselves. We have, as a nation, already accepted that some road deaths are inevitable. We are, as George Bernard Shaw once remarked in another context, simply arguing about the price.

If we really wanted to, we could stop the slaughter on our roads overnight. A law requiring all vehicles to be accompanied by a man waving a red flag would dramatically reduce the accident rate. Of course, no one in their right mind would be prepared to pay such a price just to

save a few lives. But we could for certain cut the number of road deaths by several percent for each 10 kph we knocked off the speed limit. It's those statistics again — less speed = fewer dead. Our politicians, quite rightly, reflect the popular mood. And as long as the popular mood accepts that the price of our freedom to do what we like with our cars is a few hundred dead strangers, no amount of hand-wringing will

links a radar detector, video camera and computer in a system which automatically issues speeding tickets. The ticket is in the post even before the driver gets reach home, without any human intervention. The device can handle up to 7,000 offenders per hour! Great — yes? No. After a trial period, the device was removed because the police felt it was too efficient, too radical a departure from classic law enforcement. In other words, it broke the agreed status quo. It made it impossible to speed without getting caught, and this just wasn't acceptable. After every spectacular accident, or a particularly bad week, we get the usual knee-jerk reactions. The Ministry of Transportation sets up (or talks about setting up) yet another committee. Urgent questions are asked in the Knesset — and the answers are somewhat less urgent. Well-meaning citizens hold meetings in their homes, and, if the situation is really bad, the police might hold a day of enforcement. Everyone feels good, and absolutely nothing happens. All attempts to reduce accidents on our roads are doomed to failure unless there is a major change in our collective political will. Advertising campaigns will just make the agencies rich, while technical solutions are good for headlines, but very little else. Police enforcement days just show up the lack of enforcement on normal days. Even if the man in the street cries "Enough!" it won't help. Politicians won't listen until the man in the car decides that the price is too high — and there's little sign of that happening. We all know accidents can be reduced to an absolute minimum, but we won't accept the inconvenience. We have decided to pay the blood money. This makes accidents not "Acts of God" but acts of man, and we all bear the responsibility. The writer is a Rehovot-based freelancer.

Lovely speech, except...

PRIME Minister Netanyahu's speech to the two Houses of Congress last Wednesday ought to be taught in school. In terms of language and structure, clarity, and presentation, it was almost perfect, and most of its messages were tailored-made for the tastes of the audience, especially the Republicans. It was, furthermore, a pleasure to hear an Israeli prime minister speaking English as it should be spoken. With the occasional Hebrew words pronounced as any Sabra would pronounce them. The problem with the speech was its content.

Netanyahu cited the three pillars on which peace must rest — security, reciprocity and democracy, including human rights. Security, he stressed, must precede peace. But history (not one of the PM's fortes) teaches that security is one of the fruits of peace. This doesn't mean Israel should tolerate terror, which the Palestinian Authority hasn't done enough to prevent and which Syria appears unwilling to do anything to stop.

But is the way to get the PA and Syria to play the game Israel wants them to play to assure them in advance that they will never get what they want — a Palestinian state and the Golan Heights, respectively? Reciprocity is a nice concept. But what does Netanyahu mean by it? That if the Palestinians agree to Israel's remaining permanently in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and to its settling another half-million Jews there, and if the Syrians

agree to Israel's remaining permanently on the Golan Heights we will let them open embassies in Jerusalem? Reciprocity cannot exist unless the sides treat each other as equals. Give and take between rider and horse or between master and slave isn't reciprocity. BUT THE greatest problem with Netanyahu's speech was its concepts of democracy. It seemed, from what the premier said, that the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict was the absence of democracy and human rights in Arab society. As if the Jews, returning to their historic homeland after 2,000 years in exile, had come back to a land settled by an enlightened people living according to the rules of democracy, this people would simply have welcomed them, then taken a democratic vote to vacate their towns and villages and move on elsewhere.... Of course the nature of the conflict stems from the fact of confrontation between two peoples with very different traditions and systems. But what it is about is the claim of each of those two peoples to a single piece of land that each regards as its historic homeland to the exclusion of the other. What the peace process — which began in 1974 with the disengagement agreements between Israel on the one hand and Egypt and Syria on the other — is about is

Arab acceptance of the fact that the Jewish state is here to stay, and that the Arabs must come to terms with it; and it is about Israel's willingness to give up much of its territorial gains in the Six Day War in return for peace with security and economic integration in the region. That is reciprocity in the Middle East context. The argument that democratic states do not make war or that human rights violations prevent peacemaking is also faulty. Was the state that initiated the Sinai Campaign in 1956 and the Lebanon war in 1982 not a democracy? And on the basis of Israel's own highly problematic human rights record and its inability to complete the enactment of basic human rights legislation would Netanyahu claim Israel isn't fit to make peace? It might be statistically true that democratic states are less inclined to start wars, and that those who are conscious of human rights are less likely to commit atrocities in both war and peace. But in the final reckoning the making of war and peace has to do with interests, and not with democracy or human rights. In his speech Netanyahu pointed out that what Israel wants most of all is security. The moment he realizes that these can be attained only through peace — and that peace will come only through compromise — it won't only be the US Congress that gives our prime minister a standing ovation. The writer is a political scientist.

THE POLICE, themselves not among the best drivers in the world, are full partners in this national consensus. When did you last see a driver stopped for using a cellular phone while driving in heavy traffic? And we aren't alone; this "gentleman's agreement" to trade other people's lives for our personal convenience is common to all democracies. A recent invention in the UK

links a radar detector, video camera and computer in a system which automatically issues speeding tickets. The ticket is in the post even before the driver gets reach home, without any human intervention. The device can handle up to 7,000 offenders per hour! Great — yes? No. After a trial period, the device was removed because the police felt it was too efficient, too radical a departure from classic law enforcement. In other words, it broke the agreed status quo. It made it impossible to speed without getting caught, and this just wasn't acceptable. After every spectacular accident, or a particularly bad week, we get the usual knee-jerk reactions. The Ministry of Transportation sets up (or talks about setting up) yet another committee. Urgent questions are asked in the Knesset — and the answers are somewhat less urgent. Well-meaning citizens hold meetings in their homes, and, if the situation is really bad, the police might hold a day of enforcement. Everyone feels good, and absolutely nothing happens. All attempts to reduce accidents on our roads are doomed to failure unless there is a major change in our collective political will. Advertising campaigns will just make the agencies rich, while technical solutions are good for headlines, but very little else. Police enforcement days just show up the lack of enforcement on normal days. Even if the man in the street cries "Enough!" it won't help. Politicians won't listen until the man in the car decides that the price is too high — and there's little sign of that happening. We all know accidents can be reduced to an absolute minimum, but we won't accept the inconvenience. We have decided to pay the blood money. This makes accidents not "Acts of God" but acts of man, and we all bear the responsibility. The writer is a Rehovot-based freelancer.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BENNY BEGIN
Sir, — Larry Derfner's article in praise of Benny Begin ("Bibi and Benny," J.P., July 4) brings to mind an essay by Bertrand Russell, "The Evil that Good Men Do." Russell describes a generally accredited "good man." He does not drink or lie, works hard, does not cheat his neighbors, and is faithful to his wife. But in broader social spheres he is narrow-minded and reactionary. He does not want equal treatment for members of other ethnic groups or races, does not want the government to treat needy people too generously and wants his government "to teach other nations a lesson."

The same applies to Benny Begin. Derfner says that though he disagrees with his right-wing policies, he admires him greatly because he is "good" — i.e., he was against labeling Rabin a "traitor" and "Nazi."

But Begin's chief attribute is that he wants us to rule over two million Arabs against their will. In the 20th century this is not a trait that is "good," and it heavily outweighs the "goodness" of all his other traits.

CHARLES GOODMAN
Tel Aviv.

OLYMPIC TORCH
Sir, — Until reading "Pseud-Antique" in a recent edition of *World of Sport* (J.P., June 25), I didn't know of my close connection with a factual historical event: In 1936, the Olympic torch was brought from Greece to Berlin via Vienna and Prague. Just in the middle of this run lies the town of Jindrichuv Hradec (Neubaus). Living in this town and working with a decorator, I was ordered, together with a few colleagues, to build in the center of town a kind of rostrum adorned with the national Czech colors and Olympic emblems. In its center we put something resembling an altar, on which stood a big bowl, filled with fuel. Eventually, the runners came with the torch, lit the bowl and handed it over to the local runners for the next stage. After a short speech by the mayor and the chairman of the local sports club, the new runners started. At that time nobody suspected that the lighting of the Olympic torch was a gimmick initiated under Hitler, as your article asserts. All took it for an old and ancient custom.

ARIE EFFRAT
Kibbutz Dorot.

AIRPORT OVERLOAD
Sir, — Ben Gurion Airport is our only international gateway in the center of the country. It is a relatively small airport and hundreds of large airplanes land there every month. In the last few years, charter planes have added many thousands of landings to the already stretched capacity of this airport. Charter pilots, who are frequently unfamiliar with the runways, or flying secondary planes, need to compete with the scheduled airlines for a landing or a take-off. Similarly, the one and a half terminals at the airport are overpopulated by thousands of travelers, suitcases, carts, relatives and cars. In July and August the terminals become wall-to-wall people. It is time to reduce the load at this critical airport. Ben Gurion Airport is an accident waiting to happen! Long-term plans exist to convert the Neveatim Air Force Field, near Beersheba into an international airport. This is fine but certainly some 10 years down the road. A practical immediate solution needs to be found. The matter is urgent.

A few kilometers south of Rehovot is the Tel Nof Air Force base. It is a big base, central, and has plenty of space. This needs to become the second international airport of Israel, with a minimum amount of effort it could be converted into the charter traffic airport of the country.

Every day that passes, with yet another near-miss over the skies of Gush Dan, is bringing us closer to the tragedy of an air/ground collision near the population center of our little land. Do we need to take this risk, when such a simple solution is available not far away?

DR. STEVE SATTLER
Jerusalem.

HORRIFIED
Sir, — I was horrified to read in the June 28 edition of *The Jerusalem Post* that a seven-year-old girl was raped and sodomized by her mother's husband, on more than one occasion. For these cruel crimes her stepfather received just eight years in prison! Is this considered justice? I believe in mercy, but in his case, I think he should be put away for many years longer. Preferably until he is 100 years old.

JOSEPHINE GOYRE
Jerusalem.

CORRECTION
Sir, — Regarding the second paragraph of your editorial on Yelisin in *The Jerusalem Post* of July 5: "Carping aside, to the victor goes [sic] the spoils..." Since the word "spoils" is plural, the verb should be "go."

The original saying is from a speech in the US Senate (January 1832) by William Learned Marcy: "They see nothing wrong in the rule that to the victor belong the spoils of the enemy." Incidentally, Francis Scott Fitzgerald, in *The Beautiful and the Damned* (1922), wrote: "The victor belongs to the spoils."

This information was obtained from *Barlett's Familiar Quotations*, 16th edition, edited by Justin Kaplan (published 1992 by Little, Brown & Co.).

VIVIAN R. PRIEL
Rehovot.

LOW STANDARDS
Sir, — In a recent edition of *Time Out* (J.P., July 5) Penny Starr called TV an instrument of torture. I agree. Our standards are far too low here and our youth is fed on the mediocre. The children's programs on TV are terrible. There is so much hysteria, ugly facial contortions, lack of taste, shouting and bad manners that I shudder when I think that our youth is being brought up with all the wrong values.

TESS TOISTER
Haifa.

REFORM AND CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENTS
Sir, — I write with reference to your editorial of July 2 ("Reform protest"), in which you took Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman to task for refusing to sign a general statement of support for the new government. Rabbi Zimmerman is entitled to peacefully protest in whichever way he wishes in order to bring his totally justified feeling of outrage to national attention. The Reform and Conservative communities in Israel are Israeli and not American. As Israeli citizens they are entitled to equal treatment under the law. Whether one agrees with their version of Judaism or not, they are a legitimate expression of Judaism and are entitled to the law's protection. Instead of which they are discriminated against, denied funding, and denied representation on most local religious councils.

SAM FORMAN
Rishon LeZion.

In and out

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

ACCORDING to a reporter who covered the prime minister's visit to America, Binyamin Netanyahu is a "cold character... who needs a long time to really open up." And yet, this newsman went on to observe, "in Washington Netanyahu was much less uptight than he is in Jerusalem."

Thinking this over I realized the truth of it, and, moreover, that noticeably more human warmth seemed to emanate from Netanyahu than one usually senses. One could even add that the prime minister's English sounded somehow richer than his Hebrew.

Yet why should this be? I couldn't come up with any explanation. Then I began to read the — mostly unfair — Hebrew press coverage of the visit, with its scathingly concealed contempt for the prime minister, and I felt I was onto something.

When and where else has a national leader had to face a problematic foreign government on foreign soil while subject to hostile treatment from his own media entourage? It put me in mind of what the prophet Micah said, that "A man's enemies are the men of his own house."

After one of the many standing ovations he received in Congress Netanyahu quipped, "I wish something like this would happen to me in the Knesset." It was more than a mere witticism. It went far deeper.

Netanyahu had to battle to save his party from utter disintegration and bankruptcy while scorn and ridicule poured on him from "princes" and leaders of his own party. Since then he has had to walk the Via Dolorosa of simultaneous infighting and "outfighting." Small wonder he has felt the need to lower his psychological visor.

But again I asked myself: Are we Israelis that much worse than other nations? Not necessarily, I concluded. We're simply a family. An intimate family of four-and-a-half million members.

It has been said that no man is a prophet in his home town, and the whole of Jewish Israel is just that — one small town.

With all our cozy intimacy, with our wonderful solidarity in time of need, on the individual and collective level, we still retain the politeness and lack of mutual respect and privacy that is typical of the shtetl.

MOST PROBABLY we were a shtetl even in Egypt. Who knows whether Moses's Egyptian wasn't better than his Hebrew. Perhaps it had to take a half-stranger, an

It was a warmer, freer, more eloquent Netanyahu we saw in the US. Why?

"Egyptian prince," to deliver the Hebrews not only from Egyptian bondage, but also from themselves. Even later, when the Hebrews were already free, simply to be able to lead them Moses needed a badge of distinction, something that would create distance: "... all the Children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him (Exodus, 34:30). Pinsky and his "Lovers of Zion" preceded Herzl. But the Jewish masses in Eastern Europe, had to be given a hand from the outside, from an Austrian Jew who came from the heart of Western European civilization, from a Jew who was himself on the verge of assimilation. Herzl spoke and wrote German. It was the language of his *Judenstaat*. He is depicted standing "fortified" in his formal attire, determined to make the Jews fit for statehood by teaching them "state-worthiness," respect and distance.

Then we have Chaim Weizmann, the man who realized Herzl's vision. He was always more at home in England and in English than in the land and language whose promise he did so much to fulfill. And when, at long last, he came to live here as president of the newly-born state, he remained aloof, almost estranged from his people.

All these leaders acted in agonizing periods for our people. But surely these are different times. Isn't our country strong, prosperous and free? Yes — and no. Four years of a "peace process" has made of us a people that is in existential danger, that again needs a leader who draws some of his strength from outside.

These were my thoughts. They may shed some light on the more expansive, more vital Netanyahu we sensed in the US.

The writer, a lawyer and former MK, lives in Kiryat Arba.

אליהו הנביא

1570

Mehta-morphosis: Composer is 'rehabilitated'

ZUBIN Mehta, having recently celebrated his 60th birthday, is making *Merry*. For the first time in his career, or in the history of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the IPO's musical director for life will conduct Franz Lehar's operetta *The Merry Widow*.

While it's not a breakthrough on the scale of conducting Wagner in a regular IPO concert — a dream on which Mehta hasn't given up — Lehar was, in fact, a once-banned composer because of his alleged affiliation to the Nazis.

"I did some research in Vienna and found out that Lehar was the greatest philanderer of his time," says Mehta, sitting in the conductor's room in the Mann Auditorium, between concerts, rehearsals and meetings. "But once the Nazis came to power, he protected his Jewish wife and left all other women."

As for Wagner, Mehta is even

more sensitive about the subject than ever. "I once spoke as a musician, now I speak as a human being. I really want to do *Tristan und Isolde* here. We should do it."

The Viennese style exemplified by Lehar is very close to Mehta's heart. He spent many years studying in Vienna and is often asked to conduct that city's annual New Year's gala, a program of waltzes by Strauss and his contemporaries. Mehta has led the IPO in several Strauss waltzes and polkas as well as in his popular operetta *Die Fledermaus*. Of all Viennese operettas, *The Merry Widow* is one of the most popular and, as is usual with the art form, full of dialogue. Rather than having large amounts of German dialogue on stage here, popular entertainer Tuvia Tzafir will join the cast in one of the speaking roles. "He will also narrate the rest of the story to the audience and so there will be no need for any German dialogue."

"I think it's a great idea." How does Mehta feel at 60? "It's only a number, really nothing more," he says with his contagious smile.

Mehta's April 29 birthday was celebrated in style during two gala concerts in the US this spring, which were used for raising money for the IPO. "The Los Angeles concert [on his actual birthday] was exciting because I had on stage both the IPO and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. And I had Barenboim, Perlmann and Zukerman with me there. I couldn't have wished for anything better. And then came the dinner after the concert with 800 people who were all my friends. You know wherever I looked there were friends. It was wonderful."

Professionally, Mehta is at his peak. "I had a very good half a year before coming here. First,

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

the three months in Chicago doing [Wagner's] *Ring* were pure bliss. The Chicago Lyric Opera orchestra is the most willing, hard-working ensemble I know. And I had a great cast. You know after 30 years working with singers you really get to appreciate the great ones."

How does Mehta differentiate between a very good singer and a great one?

"Good singers [are those] we conductors have to give in to, even if we don't want to. The great singers sing and act and are in contact with the orchestra all the time. I'm angry when there are singers who think there is no one else on the stage. Each singer must realize that he is part of the entire tapestry. That's the only way to do opera."

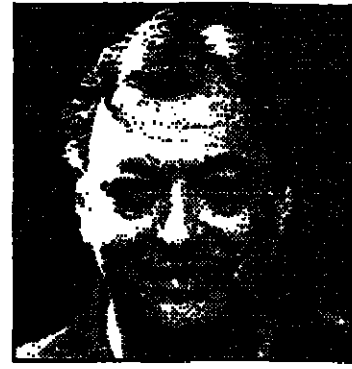
After Chicago and some tour concerts with the IPO, Mehta

changed genres and spent several months in Florence leading various Italian operas including *Aida* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

On top of all that he was recently appointed music director of the Bavarian Staatsoper in Munich, the first time in his career he will actually be in charge of an opera house.

"I'm not the only person in charge, they have a general director. But I will do three new productions a year and give them 40 evenings each season. The reason I accepted it is because of the repertoire; new productions I can do all over the world." Mehta will devote five months a year to Munich when his contract begins in the fall of 1998. Does that mean less time with the IPO?

"I'm not going to stop coming here — as long as they want me — but the periods might be a little bit



Zubin Mehta will be leading the IPO in "The Merry Widow" for the first time.

shorter."

The IPO is also celebrating its 60th birthday, for which the orchestra and Mehta are planning an extraordinary series of events, slated for the second part of December.

"This is going to be the most

incredible music festival in the world. Just imagine we have here our closest friends like Daniel Barenboim, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Yefim Bronfman, Isaac Stern, Midori, Gil Shaham, Shlomo Mintz, Maxim Vengerov, Murray Perahia, Ida Handel, Kurt Masur and others. Where else can you listen to them all within two weeks?"

Meanwhile the end of the current season features the Lehar (July 25-August 1) and this week a program of works by Bartok and Richard Strauss, a composer relatively new for the IPO.

Why does Mehta program so many different works for his IPO concerts? Surely he could have passed his annual Israeli July in a much quieter fashion, leading no more than one or two different programs?

"In my way of life I just can't do that," he says, simply.

Rock's unchained melody

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

GOOD GOD'S URGE
Porno for Pyros (Hed Arzi)

Remember the "Fractured Fairytales" segment from the old *Rocky* and *Bulwinkle* show? That's a perfect description of Porno for Pyros' starkly original music.

Built around simple melodies, an acoustic guitar, and singer Perry Farrell's high-pitched, lullaby voice, Porno's tunes then veer off into uncharted territory. Odd cross rhythms, a multitude of electronic noises and occasional bursts of metallic energy define this as art rock for the '90s filtered through punk sensibilities.

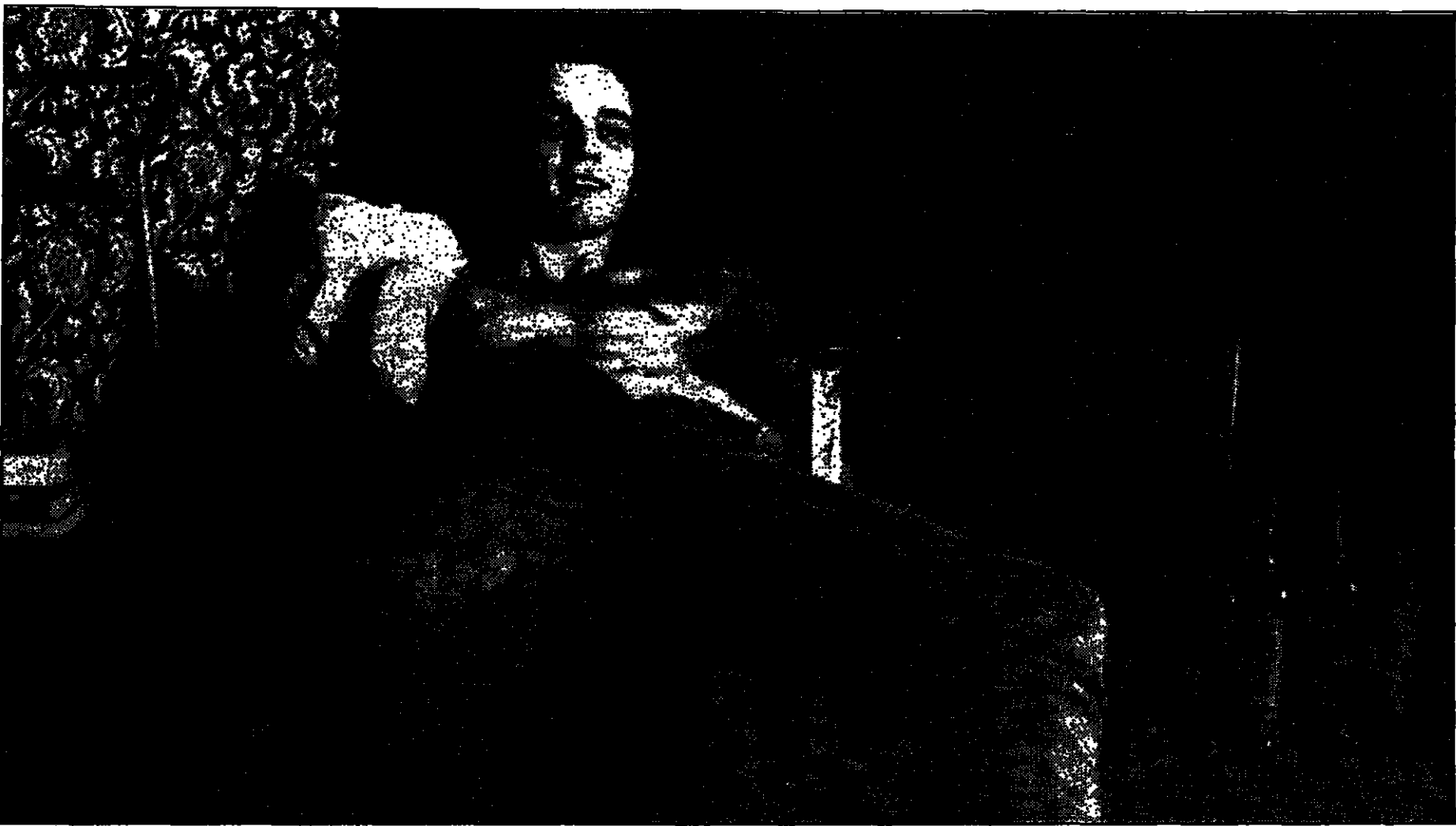
The title song of the band's second release encapsulates this approach, with its light sing-song verses exploding into controlled fury.

Farrell, the former leader of '80s punk band Jane's Addiction, and the founder and organizer of the annual Lollapalooza alternative-rock festival, possesses a voice that can be deceptively sweet or gratingly shrieky. Sounding at times like an unrefined Jon Anderson (from the band Yes), Farrell sings his inaccessibly poetic lyrics with a passion that infects the rest of the band.

Definitely not easy listening, *Good God's Urge* is nonetheless worth listening to.

PEACE AT LAST
The Blue Nile (Hed Arzi)

The Blue Nile is the Scottish Steely Dan. The band has an affinity for the recording studio, and its music has a gorgeous,



The soundtrack for "Trainspotting" features classic tunes from Iggy Pop and Lou Reed as well as some new acts.

sonic clarity.

Starting off as a Depeche Mode-style synthesizer band in the '80s, the group — basically Paul Buchanan and Robert Bell — has evolved into a purveyor of moody acoustic music with a soulful flavor.

Peace at Last, only its third album in 12 years, focuses on spirituality with song titles like "Body and Soul," "Holy Love" and "Happiness." Consistently slow and introspective, *Peace at Last* contains many lovely moments. The lush production

and complex arrangements make this middle-of-the-road music that will stay with you till the end of the journey.

Celluloid Heroes
Two new sound tracks, *Trainspotting* and *Birds in Neutral* (both NMC) typify the erratic nature of the beast.

Trainspotting is a much-heralded film about British youth that naturally features a lot of British bands and a few old faves.

Two vintage Iggy Pop tunes and a Lou Reed classic sound just fine

in the company of young upstarts Blur, Elastica and Sleeper.

But fillers such as the house mixes by Bedrock and Underworld, which may work to great effect in the film, will have you scrambling for the forward button on the CD player.

The sound track to new local release *Birds in Neutral* is even less consistent. Interspersed with impressive contributions from Ziknei Tzfat (The Elders of Safed), the Subway Suckers and Noise, are snippets of dialogue from the film itself. If you haven't

seen the movie, they are pointless, and if you have, they form a redundant souvenir.

Tony Ray's five greatest reggae albums

1. Dennis Brown: *Joseph's Coat of Amazing Colors*
2. Gregory Isaacs: *All-time Greatest Hits*
3. Bob Marley: *Exodus*
4. Bob Marley: *Uprising*
5. Burning Spear: *Live in Paris*

(Tony Ray will be performing at this Friday's reggae festival in Achziv.)

Contest result
Hanna Biner from Jerusalem correctly answered the In Tune Contest I: In which movies do the following songs appear?

The Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn" — *Forrest Gump*
Tammy Wynette's "Stand by Your Man" — *Sleepless in Seattle*
The O'Jays' "Backstabbers" — *Carlito's Way*

The winner receives the NMC compilation *Songs from the Movies II*, containing those three songs and much more. Stay tuned for Contest II.

The two faces of Karmiel

THERE are two ways to enjoy the Karmiel Dance Festival at 1:30 a.m. The most obvious one is to roam the streets and enjoy the incredible sight of thousands of people — young and old alike — celebrating the great tradition of Israeli folk dancing without any sign of fatigue.

Then you could continue through the parks and streets of the city and revel in the carnival atmosphere. This is what makes Karmiel one of a kind, this is why the festival will never lose its magic.

The other way to take in the festival is to attend one of the various artistic programs. But watching the Caracas Ballet perform *Carmina Burana* past midnight is not an easy task. The costumes are colorful and evocative, the music is gorgeous but somehow the movement itself is repetitious and boring.

On the whole, the artistic component of this year's Karmiel festival was considerably lacking. Ballet Braunschweig from Germany, undoubtedly the most serious visiting company, seemed second or even third rate compared to Batsheva; the folkloristic oriente Ballet Espanol looked like a poor tourist attraction; and it was left to the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, as usual, to save the day.

The premiere of Rami Beer's *When Most I Wink* was the festival's highlight.

Michael Ajzenstadt

East of Sweden

DANCE
DORA SOWDEN

FIVE of Israel's best dancers who are working abroad, most of them with Sweden's Cullberg company, gave an astonishing demonstration of their skills at Tel Aviv's Bat-Dor Theater (July 13). These were five gifted, superlative performers in control of their bodies to such a remarkable degree that they seemed to overcome any limitations of nature and go beyond the vocabulary of physical movement.

If there was any shortcoming, it was in the choreography, which tended to have a sameness, and emphasis on the modern tendency to focus on gymnastics and quirks. Except for one section made up of solos and duos devised by Talis Paz together with French choreographer Philippe Blanchard, the choreography was by Swedes Jens Ostbergs and Oran Andersson. The music ranged from bursts of sound to Bach.

The first item, *Sleep in Hew Zone*, served the admirable purpose of showing what the five could do together. The last one was a kind of story, entitled *Arrival of Queen of Sheba*, for whom a door and a red carpet were in evidence, though the queen never came. This had its amusing moments — as did earlier duos by Boaz Cohen (remembered from his Kibbutz company days), Rafi Soadi, Yamit Kalif and Eytan Subek.

Dance as ambassador

HELEN KAYE

THIRTEEN dances from eight countries, including Israel, will compete for NIS 95,000 prize money in the third International Dance Competition at Tel Aviv's Suzanne Dellal (SD) Dance Center, October 16-22.

"There's so much going on worldwide in dance that we're not experiencing," says SD head Meir Vardi. "The competition not only gives local audiences a taste of what's being done outside the major companies around the world, it affords a mutual interchange between local and visiting choreographers."

The Israeli entries are *Ta* ("Cell"), choreographed and performed by Ido Tadmor with his company, Noa Dar's *Lachrymosa*, danced by Ensemble Batsheva; *Line-up* by the Kibbutz Dance Company's Uri Ibgil with a KDC ensemble; and the Batsheva Company dancing *The Rogue Tool* by guest choreographer Paul Norton.

Foreign entries include two each from the US and France and one from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Slovenia and Spain. Among them are *Derivishing* from the Sharif Dance Company in Austin, Texas, the Quassaer company from Brasel with *Versus, Sting and String First Touch* from Slovenia's En-Kap

and *Love in Pieces* from Deiz and Deiz in Madrid.

Spain swept the boards in the '94 competition, winning three of the five prizes awarded. Choreographer Juan Carlos Garcia won the choreography first prize for his *Echoes of Silence* danced by L'anonyma Imperial, and the group also won the audience approval award and best performance for dancer Babeto Cidra.

The entries were chosen from among 90 submissions and, says Vardi, "the competition has put SD and Israeli dance on the international map. There is an Israeli fringe group at every international dance festival in Europe this summer."

Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal are at Montpellier with *Inta Omri* and their new work, *The Land of Rape and Honey*. Adi Sha'al and Noa Wertheim of Vertigo are among the Israelis presenting short pieces at Rome and Ido Tadmor is dancing the late Hezi Leskley's *The Golden Plate* at the Bagnolet Festival in Paris.

"Dance is our best ambassador," Vardi puns.

Kronos puts on a light show in every sense of the term

WHEN the Kronos Quartet played its rendition of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" as one of the four encores to its three-hour concert, the 1,000-strong audience applauded with yells and foot-stomping more akin to the world of rock. It was the kind of reaction these musicians have come to expect the world over.

More surprising, however, was the quartet's largely one-dimensional music. Judith Shatin's *Elijah's Chariot*, a dialogue between the strings and a pre-recorded shofar, was truly unworthy. The rest of the program focused on two things: minimalism and folk-cum-ethnic influences. One or two such pieces are enjoyable, but five is a bit much.

The quartet is much calmer and subtler than a decade ago. Its amplification and lighting effects are more subdued, the style of playing is less aggressive. But its program here suffered from lack of versatility. And when it opted for Schnittke's highly demanding second quartet, the only "classical" music piece in the lineup, it failed miserably. Schnittke and light shows, no matter how subtle, just don't go together. Kronos is much more versatile, interesting and gripping in its recordings. Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, July 13.

Michael Ajzenstadt

IN the old game show *Name That Tune*, even the most accomplished contestants needed at least three notes to identify the mystery song. All a listener needs to identify the electric guitar-playing of B.B. King, however, is a single tone. His incredibly fat yet intensely economical sound cannot be mistaken for — or reproduced by — anyone else. While it's a privilege to hear such a master in action, even as distorted by the

CONCERT ROUNDUP

hall's frustratingly muddy acoustics, one can't help wishing that the blues legend would indulge in a little less shtick and perhaps display a bit more raw emotion.

Jerusalem International Convention Center, July 11.
Ruth Kern

NOT many opera singers can carry an entire program on their shoulders. South African tenor Johan Botha sang an amazing 10 of the greatest tenor arias in one evening.

This should have been an opera lover's heaven. Unfortunately, he sings every aria the same way. One cannot differentiate one operatic hero from another. Although the voice is big, it lacks Italian flair and heat. Botha sings with great professionalism, but not from the soul. Conductor Asher Fisch was a perfect accompanist and the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion was, on the whole, more than adequate. Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, July 8.

Michael Ajzenstadt

THE sole Tel Aviv appearance of legendary pianist Alfred Brendel was one of the most memorable music events of the year. Playing Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta, Brendel delivered a masterful rendition without any mannerisms. This approach glorifies the composer and renders the artist the servant of the music.

Brendel does not try to impress. He walks slowly to the piano, sits down and then begins to play as if in another world. A pianist of tremendous nuance, he takes a familiar work and performs it as if from scratch.

Mann Auditorium Tel Aviv, July 12.
Michael Ajzenstadt

ARGENTINIAN-born Alberto Bobbouth, a remarkably versatile pianist, presented a recital of mostly musical trifles in a variety of styles and genres. Appropriately entertaining as it was for a hot Jerusalem evening in a poorly ventilated hall, it lacked a piece of resistance, which would have lent some musical substance to the program.

Bobbouth has a delightfully light hand which makes the dance-like pieces dance, be it Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances or Ravel's *Bolero del Gracioso*. A display of considerable virtuosity was accomplished in Poulenc's and Prokofiev's toccatas and Liszt's Ballade No. 2. And the delicacy and subtlety in Chopin's Scherzo No. 2 were enjoyable.

The pianist seemed to be particularly at home and at ease in the jazz-inspired, light-music genre of two effect-studded entertainment pieces by Shlomo Gronich.

Bobbouth's talent for performing weightier works of the classical repertoire remains to be seen in his future performances. Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem, July 6.

Ury Eppstein

WHAT could have been a fascinating, even hypnotizing evening of Indian music, performed on tabla by Ustad Sabir Khan, was reduced to a deafening beating on the eardrums by an electronic amplification system. This was as superfluous as it was amateurish-handed.

The last thing needed by the Israel Museum's small auditori-

um, with its reasonably good acoustics, is amplification. (Even the guitars and lutes' natural sounds can be heard there clearly.) The inevitable, deplorable result was the total loss of the many subtleties of the instruments' tone colors and nuances, and of one of the most precious qualities of this music — its intimacy. What it all amounted to was a brutal vulgarization of an ancient, dignified and extremely refined music tradition. Why the museum should have stooped so low as to adjust its performance techniques to cheap nightclub convention remains an unanswered question.

In his solos, the astonishing dexterity of Sabir Khan's tabla drumming and his accuracy in performing the most intricate rhythms could, nevertheless, be admired. Sharma's remarkably controlled command of the sarod was likewise impressive. Their development from an extremely slow start through imperceptibly accelerating tempi to a stirring climax was achieved with considerable artistry, in spite of the adverse circumstances.

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, July 8.
Ury Eppstein

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	8	VARIOUS ARTISTS	RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND TWO
#2	6	SHLOMO ARZI	HITMAN 7
#3	NEW	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VOLUME 10
#4	5	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#5	3	ALANIS MORISSETTE	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#6	4	RITA	THE LETTER
#7	7	AVIV GEFEN	DREAMLAND
#8	11	VARIOUS ARTISTS	THE SCORE
#9	10	FUGEES	THE GRAND LOVE
#10	15	RITA	PISTA
#11	13	CARAPICHO	THE CHILD IN YOU
#12	RE	YEHUDA POLIKER	POP
#13	9	ETHINK	DREAMLAND
#14	5	ROBERT MILES	
#15	16		

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

Complete Guide to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gov't weighs easing restrictions on purchase of foreign securities

THE Treasury and the Bank of Israel are contemplating lowering capital gains taxes on foreign securities and easing restrictions on the purchase of foreign stocks and bonds, government sources hinted yesterday.

The plans aim to exempt institutional investors from paying taxes on gains from foreign securities, in the framework of broader foreign currency deregulation, as well as the elimination of the 35 percent tax currently imposed on institutional investors' profits from overseas investments.

Other proposals include allowing provident funds to invest 5% of their assets abroad, instead of the current 2.5%. Bankers and analysts said such ideas could be beneficial to the capital market in the long run, though in the short term they might further aggravate its current crisis.

According to Amir Barnea, a partner in Singer-Barnea, the proposals are likely to improve provident funds' yields in the long run, since they will be provided alternative investment routes and be able to diversify their risk.

However, Barnea warned that the measures cannot be expected to improve the stability of the capital market in the short term.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

"The large provident fund redemptions stem from the crisis on the local market. I don't see how measures of this kind can stabilize the market," he said.

Hanna Pri-Zur, senior vice president and manager of the securities division at Bank Hapoalim, said the tax exemption on foreign investments would improve the fund performance and reduce the capital market volatility. For instance, she said, El Al has achieved high yields after investing \$5 million in a Wall Street-based investment portfolio earlier this year.

However, a senior banking official was less optimistic. The provident funds' low yields reflect the poor performance of fund managers, he said, adding that if the managers are not capable of making good investments on the local market, it is even less likely that they would succeed overseas.

"If I were a fund manager I would invest no more than 1% of assets abroad, since local funds do not have the infrastructure or tools with which to know what's going on overseas and where to invest," he said.

He emphasized that the capital

market is very delicate and as long as the economy continues to suffer from basic structural problems, including slow progress in the liberalization and privatization process, the crisis is expected to continue.

As part of the government's effort to address the capital market crisis, the Treasury is reportedly considering imposing taxes on short-term savings plans in an attempt to prevent the transfer of deposits from provident funds to saving plans.

Over the last two years, a large percentage of the public's withdrawals from the funds was reinvested in index-linked saving plans, which pay a relatively high interest.

The Treasury reportedly believes that imposing taxes on these plans will encourage savers to keep their money in long-term savings, like the provident funds, which are not subject to taxation. However, banking sources are also skeptical about the proposal's impact on the capital market.

The proposal is likely to shift the saving market's center of gravity from short to long-term plans, they said, but there is a risk that such measures would ultimately induce increased consumer spending at the expense of savings.

Knesset panel discusses business grants

EVELYN GORDON

THE Industry and Trade Ministry's investment center approved \$10.8 billion worth of investments during the last four years, of which \$5.6b. have so far been implemented - an increase of 113 percent over the previous four years, center head Moshe Dovrat told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

Dovrat said that if all of these investments were actually implemented, they would create 82,000 new jobs and \$15b. in annual turnover, including about \$10.7b. in exports. The \$10.8b. in new investments included \$1.3b. of foreign capital, he said.

These figures indicate that the Capital Investment Encouragement Law has been a success, so the Treasury should not be reducing the maximum grant size from 34% to 20% of the total investment, he said.

However, Dovrat did not say how much the government had to pay to attract this \$10.8b. Treasury representative Ron Ayalon said that for foreign investment, every dollar brought in under the law requires the government to pay 60 cents in grants. This, he said, is an "exaggerated and unjustified" price.

Furthermore, Ayalon said, only 7% of all investment makes use of this law, and only 25% of industrial investment, which shows that it is not essential.

Tourism Ministry Director General Eli Gonen charged that reducing the grants would seriously hurt the construction and expansion of hotels, while the Local Authorities Union charged that the government's decision would hurt the periphery.

Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) promised that the committee would serve as a "protest vigil" against reductions in the grants.

Officials join forces to defend planned cuts

DAVID HARRIS

THREE ministries, together with the National Insurance Institute, yesterday defended their claim that low-income families will not be affected by the government's proposed NIS 4.9 billion budget cut.

During a briefing, senior officers from the Finance, Health, and Labor and Social Affairs ministries said they felt it economically unsound to raise taxes and had to find alternative methods for reducing the budget deficit and subsequently lowering inflation.

"The government decision was derived from a macroeconomic need, not a microeconomic one," said Finance Ministry budget department director Ron Kroll.

"To make almost NIS 5b. in cuts is a very difficult thing to do and it has meant we have had to hit every sector."

The only negative effects which will be felt by low-income families, if the proposals are implemented, are a "minimal payment" for doctor's appointments and hospital outpatient visits, and a 13 percent increase in transport fares, which were long overdue, according to government economists.

The poor will gain from the proposed changes in the Demobilized Soldiers Law and possible reforms in NII contributions,

which are currently under discussion, said Kroll's deputy Haim Peltz, responsible for the social budget.

Peltz defended the cabinet proposal to reduce child allowances for families in which the head of the household earns more than the average wage. Only a third of all families with children will face a reduction, and only the wealthiest 23% would have their entire allowances cut for their first and second child, he said.

The child allowance proposals have been criticized by economists because they only take into account to earnings of the usually male head of the household, not his spouse.

THE SOCIAL BUDGET in NIS millions

	1992 Budget (96 Prices)	1996 Budget	1997 Budget (96 Prices) After budget cuts
National Insurance Institute	17,609	23,570	23,500
Education Ministry	9,702	16,012	16,584
Health Ministry	1,814	2,970	2,934
Higher Education	2,336	3,559	3,670
Labor+Social Affairs Ministry	2,006	2,553	2,600
Absorption Ministry	3,305	1,485	1,395
Religious Affairs Ministry	1,120	1,197	1,188
Total	37,892	51,345	51,871

Source: Finance Ministry

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Pursuant to the provisions of the Banking (Licensing) Law, 1981, according to which Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. ("Bank Leumi") is required to reduce its holding in Africa Israel Investments Ltd. (the "Company"), a publicly listed company, traded on The Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange ("TASE"), Bank Leumi intends to offer for sale in a single transaction outside the TASE, a block of shares (the "Shares"), being part of Bank Leumi's holding in the Company, representing approximately 24.96% of the Company's issued capital (21.65% on a fully diluted basis) and approximately 30% of the voting rights in the Company (24.86% on a fully diluted basis).

Additional information, including the number of shares to be sold, the terms of the offer and the sale process is contained in a procedure letter (the "Procedure Letter") which can be obtained at the addresses stated below.

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The Procedure Letter and the financial statements of the Company can be obtained at one of the following addresses:

Dr. Yael Benjamini, Vice President, Bank Leumi, Group Domestic Subsidiaries Division, 35 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel: 972-3-514 9405; Fax: 972-3-514 8864; or

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Morgan Stanley & Co. Limited are acting as advisers to Bank Leumi only, in connection with the sale of the Shares.

bank leumi בנק לאומי

Tadiran Telecom installs digital system in Bulgaria

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TADIRAN Telecommunications has installed a digital communications network in the Simitly region of Bulgaria, the company announced yesterday.

The contract, worth \$2 million, was Tadiran Telecommunications' second such project in Bulgaria. Two years ago, the company installed a system in the Varza region of the country and has also installed a number of systems throughout many CIS republics.

The new system will replace the currently used analog system and offer users a host of services, such as call-waiting and call-forwarding. The state phone company, Bulgaria Telecommunications Co., will operate the network.

Tadiran Telecommunications, the Petah Tikva-based subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd., designs, develops and manufactures telecommunications equipment and systems worldwide. In Israel, the company supplies telecommunications equipment and systems and offers a line of products for public networks and for business and residential customers.

Unilever to explore new trade here

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Unilever Group plans to examine additional investment opportunities here.

Morris Tabakshlat, CEO of the food, home, and personal care conglomerate, will arrive here tomorrow. During his five-day visit, he and members of the new government will discuss further opportunities for the company and inter-regional trade. Tabakshlat will also meet with members of the retail industry and visit a number of retail stores.

French businessman: Europeans no longer want to invest in Mideast

ELDAD BECK

PARIS

FRENCH and other European businessmen, who were thinking of investing money in Middle East development projects, lost all interest after the election of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, according to Lionel Stoleru, president of the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

"Whatever Mr. Netanyahu will choose to do on the political level, there is already a change. Those who started considering Israel as a potential bridge to a common market in the Middle East have gone home," he said. "Nobody in France or in Europe believes in the construction of a regional economy in the Middle East anymore. Nobody will invest even one cent in it."

However, Stoleru said he believes that the Israeli economy is efficient enough to develop itself alone.

Stoleru, who also presides over the France-Israel House (FIH), the only European establishment to promote commercial activities between Israel and the European Union, said he is resigning from his position because he didn't get any help from the Israeli government or Israeli businesses in

financing FIH activities. FIH, inaugurated three years ago by presidents Chaim Herzog and Francois Mitterrand, was meant to become a leading meeting place for businessmen from Israel and Europe.

However, it was scheduled to close down this month, because its management had failed to raise the 30 million francs owed in back rent. In a last minute effort, Stoleru succeeded in raising the

money, with the help of members of FIH's board, thus ensuring its existence for the next 10 years.

Stoleru criticized Israel's business community for not investing in FIH.

"How can one explain the fact that Israel Aircraft Industries, with our help, sold five Hedron planes to France, and yet have never given us one dollar? Israeli enterprises must understand that beyond their own interest lies a collective interest in developing commercial ties between Europe and Israel," he said.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.875	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.000	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.875	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.000	1.500	
Yen (10 million yen)				

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.7.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5154	3.5721	3.09	3.25	3.5477
German mark	3.1476	3.1994	2.02	2.13	3.1770
Pound sterling	2.0950	2.0984	4.79	5.08	4.9251
French franc	4.5785	4.5572	1.59	1.63	4.5186
Japanese yen (100)	0.8101	0.8200	2.79	2.94	2.8708
Dutch florin	2.8447	2.8906	1.80	1.90	1.8586
Swiss franc	1.9400	1.9697	2.45	2.58	2.5228
Swedish krona	2.4251	2.5295	0.45	0.49	0.4879
Norwegian krona	0.4677	0.4753	0.82	0.88	0.8507
Denmark krone	0.4835	0.4913	0.47	0.50	0.4720
Finland mark	0.2361	0.2448	0.28	0.28	0.2829
Canadian dollar	0.6767	0.6997	2.28	2.36	2.3248
Australian dollar	2.3004	2.3376	0.88	0.70	0.8851
S. African rand	2.5008	2.5410	2.45	2.58	2.5219
Belgian franc (10)	0.7085	0.7210	0.64	0.73	0.7168
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0227	1.0188	0.98	1.04	1.0118
Italian lira (1000)	2.9356	2.9830	2.89	3.03	2.9889
Jordanian dinar	2.0482	2.0813	2.01	2.12	2.0811
Equatorial guinea	4.3800	4.8900	4.38	4.68	4.4798
ECU	0.8900	0.8700	0.89	0.97	0.8952
Irish punt	3.9129	4.8761	4.82	5.17	4.9450
Spanish peseta (100)	5.0091	5.0898	2.41	2.53	2.4756

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates against NIS.

INTEL STOCK MARKET table with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing AMEX, AXP, and other Israeli companies.

INTEL MONEY MARKET table showing Dollar crossrates and Labor rates.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of Tel Aviv stock market data, including Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Afternoon/Morning trading.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and Frankfurt.

Indexes sink to eight-month low

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET table showing Felice Maranz and Maof Index values.

STOCK indexes sank for a ninth day yesterday, hitting their lowest level in eight months...

After the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange closed for the day, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced that the consumer price index rose 0.7 percent in June...

Euro markets continue slide

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE 100 fell for the third consecutive session, dragged down by continued weakness in the U.S. stock market...

Dow plummets 161 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Stock prices tumbled yesterday, with the Dow industrials staging its fourth-worst point drop ever...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table showing exchange rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and Ffr.

NBA shopping spree continues unabated

NEW YORK (AP) - One weekend into the free agent market and nearly half a billion dollars has already been spent.

The Miami Heat and New York Knicks are in for \$350 million, the Indiana Pacers have committed \$80m and the Los Angeles Lakers are waiting for Shaquille O'Neal to answer their \$95m offer.

All around the NBA, teams are lining up with tens of millions more, and the best players lucky enough to be without contracts are enjoying an unprecedented payday.

Juwan Howard, the 23-year-old forward from the Washington Bullets, reportedly agreed to a seven-year, \$98m deal with Miami. The Heat also were said to have agreed to terms with Alonzo Mourning on a seven-year contract worth \$105m.

Miami still has \$2.3m of salary cap room and still needs a point guard - especially if Tim Hardaway agrees to a free agent deal with Houston - and Pat Riley may pursue Derek Harper,

whose rights were renounced by the New York Knicks on Sunday.

That allowed New York to sign free agent guards Allan Houston (Detroit) and Chris Childs (New Jersey) and finalize a trade for two-time All-Star and former overall No. 1 pick Larry Johnson.

Charlotte received forward Anthony Mason and center Brad Lohaus from the Knicks.

Houston will get \$56m over seven years and Childs gets \$24m over six years.

"We hit the jackpot," Knicks' GM Ernie Grunfeld said. "We'll be one of the top teams competing for the championship, not only this year but for years to come."

Early Saturday morning, Houston told the Knicks he'd accept their offer. If Houston had wavered, Grunfeld was ready to call Reggie Miller's agent.

"You've got a lot of players that probably haven't got to the playoffs yet or the second round that are making \$10m plus. That I don't agree with," Miller said after the US Olympic Team beat Greece 128-62. Miller was the lead-

ing scorer in the Dream Team's five exhibition games, averaging 14.2 points.

Another Olympian, Charles Barkley, said the NBA had squashed the proposed three-team trade that would have sent him to the Houston Rockets, Sam Cassell and Robert Horry to Denver and Dikembe Mutombo to Phoenix.

"One of my agents said the league wouldn't let the deal go through because too much tampering had been involved," Barkley said. "I think that's gutless on the part of the NBA because everybody has tampered. To hold me hostage because they're trying to prove a point is unfair."

Miller, upon hearing Barkley's conspiracy theory, took an easy shot at his Dream Teammate.

"Whatever Charles says, do not believe him," Miller said.

Gary Payton agreed to a seven-year, \$85m contract with the SuperSonics, the team he led to the NBA Finals last year. The Heat were the last team to have a shot at Payton after the

Knicks, Hornets, Rockets and Bucks dropped out, but they lost out when Seattle increased its offer. The signing was to be announced yesterday.

"I don't need Michael money. I'm glad with what I've got. Mike wanted one year, I wanted seven, so I'm all right," Payton said in reference to Michael Jordan's one-year, \$25m contract with the Bulls.

The Lakers, who have offered about \$95m over seven years to O'Neal, lost a chance to sign Dale Davis as they waited for O'Neal to make up his mind between Los Angeles and Orlando.

"The financial package will be incredible, so it's not something we're dwelling on," said O'Neal's agent, Leonard Armato. "The main factors are the likelihood of a championship and the feeling Shaq has about the city. Orlando wants us to explore the options, then they'll put their best foot forward."

Davis, told the Lakers wanted to wait for O'Neal, chose to re-sign with Indiana for seven years and \$42m, sources said. Indiana also

reached agreement with Antonio Davis, who will re-sign for \$38.5m over seven years.

In Houston, it looks like Hakeem Olajuwon will be wearing a Rockets uniform for the rest of his career.

The Houston Chronicle reported Sunday that the superstar center has agreed in principle to a five-year contract worth between \$55-60m.

Although exact terms were not known, the first year's salary would be about \$8m with a league-maximum 20 percent escalation each season.

The new deal puts Olajuwon just ahead of David Robinson, who signed a deal with the San Antonio Spurs reportedly worth \$66m for six seasons.

Olajuwon's new deal, along with Clyde Drexler's salary, means the Rockets have two players making more than \$13m, which is more than half of the \$24.3m salary cap for next season.

If the Rockets can finalize a trade for Barkley, his \$4.6m paycheck would take the total to nearly \$18m for three players.

Podenzana wins 15th stage, Riis holds onto yellow jersey

VILLENEUVE-SUR-LOT (Reuter) - Veteran Italian Massimo Podenzana used the last stage before arduous climbs in the Pyrenees to score his first stage win in the Tour de France yesterday.

The 34-year-old Podenzana escaped from a group of six front-runners with 10 kilometers remaining to claim the day's 15th stage over 176 kms from Tulle.

He crossed the line in Villeneuve-sur-Lot 37 seconds ahead of second-placed Italian Giuseppe Guerini and Belgian Peter Van Petegem third a further 13 seconds back.

Dane Bjarne Riis stayed quietly in the pack, which came in over five minutes later, to retain the race leader's yellow jersey.

Five-time defending champion Miguel Indurain held back yesterday and finished with the main group of riders. He remains in 8th place overall at 4 minutes, 38 seconds back.

The breakaway group of six, none of whom were a threat to the leaders in the overall standings, had ridden in front for most of the day's undemanding ride, raced under stifling heat.

Australian Neil Stephens, who was part of the group, fell four kms from home when he skidded off the road at a roundabout, ripping the tire from his back wheel.

He restarted and ended the stage in sixth place.

The sprint for seventh place was taken by Frenchman Frederic Moncassin, who won the

first stage of the Tour in the Netherlands on June 30.

Podenzana, who wore the leader's pink jersey on the Giro d'Italia for nine days in 1988, was elated with his stage win.

"This is the most important moment of my career," he said. "I was thinking about retirement but maybe I will go on for another year."

Riis, still firmly in command of the overall race with a 56-second lead over second-placed Abraham Olano of Spain, said he was looking forward to today's first Pyrenean stage, which ends with a grueling climb to the resort of Hautacam.

"It's a very important stage," he said. "Hopefully, I can fare well in it and keep the jersey."

Griffey returns in style, sinks Angels

SEATTLE (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. starred in his return to the Seattle lineup after a 20-game absence, hitting a two-run homer and an RBI double Sunday that lifted the Mariners past the California Angels 8-0.

Griffey, sidelined since June 19 because of a broken right wrist, doubled during a six-run third inning and hit his 24th homer in the fourth. He finished 2-for-3, grounding out with the bases loaded in the seventh.

The Mariners went 12-8 without their All-Star center fielder. Their win over the Angels pulled them within three games of Texas in the AL West.

Bob Wells (10-2) pitched a four-hitter without a walk. The Mariners became the last team in the major leagues to get a complete game.

The Mariners had five consecutive hits in the third against Jason Grimsley (4-6).

Yankees 4, Orioles 1

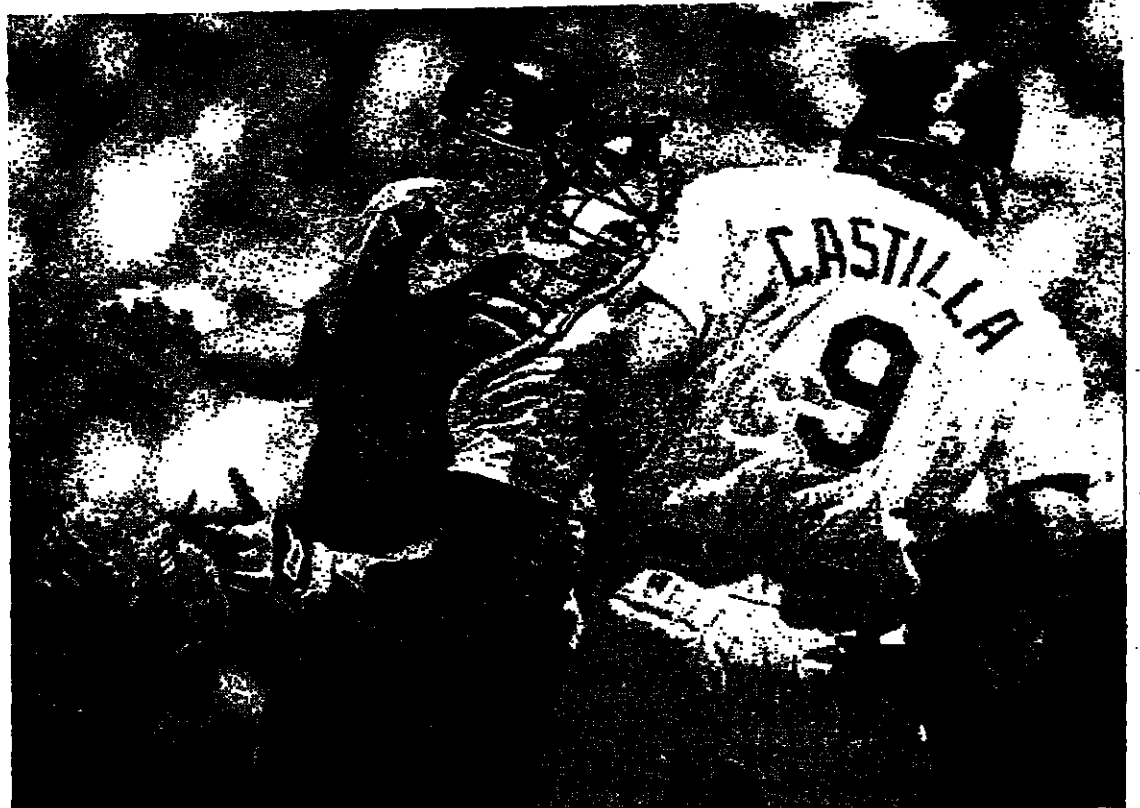
The New York Yankees completed their first four-game sweep in Baltimore since 1955, beating the Orioles behind a solid pitching performance by Andy Pettitte.

Designated hitter Darryl Strawberry singled, doubled, stole a base and scored twice for the Yankees, who have won four straight and nine of 10. New York won all six games in Baltimore, the first time they'd ever won six straight on the road against the Orioles in one year.

The sweep left New York a season-high 10 games ahead of second-place Baltimore in the AL East. The Orioles have lost five straight.

Red Sox 6, Tigers 4

Tim Lincecum and Mo Vaughn homered and visiting Boston won



HIS HOME IS HIS-CASTILLA - Rockies Vinny Castilla knocks off the mask and glove of Padres catcher John Flaherty. Castilla scored on a throwing error by Padres SS Chris Gomez (Reuter)

his fifth in a row, finishing off a four-game sweep over Detroit.

Boston's winning streak is its longest of the season. The Red Sox have won nine of 10 against the Tigers this year.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braves 15, Florida 10

Stumping Ryan Klesko hit a pair of homers and drove in six runs, and Atlanta scored five times in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Marquis Grissom had four hits and scored four runs for Atlanta. Jeff Conine homered twice and drove in four runs for Florida.

Rockies 8, Padres 4
Ellis Burks homered and stole home and Vinny Castilla hit his fourth homer in four games as Colorado blended speed and power to win at home.

It was the fifth straight win for the Rockies, who trailed in each of their last four games but still

earned the first four-game sweep in the history of the Colorado-San Diego series.

Expos 5, Phillies 2
Shenan Obando hit two home runs for the first time in his career and host Montreal avoided a four-game sweep.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
New York	58	33	.289	-
Baltimore	48	43	.177	10
Toronto	41	50	.147	16
Boston	40	49	.146	16
Detroit	27	65	.293	30.5

Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Cleveland	55	36	.304	-
Chicago	53	38	.282	2
Minnesota	42	46	.275	10.5
Minnesota	42	46	.275	10.5
Kansas City	39	53	.264	16.5

West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Texas	53	38	.282	-
Seattle	48	40	.261	3
Oakland	48	47	.259	3.5
California	44	48	.278	6.5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	57	34	.298	-
Montreal	50	41	.248	7
New York	45	46	.243	14
Toronto	41	50	.211	18
Philadelphia	40	50	.244	18.5

Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
St. Louis	49	42	.238	-
Houston	48	44	.227	1
Chicago	45	44	.265	4.5
Chicago	45	49	.262	7
Pittsburgh	40	51	.240	9

West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Los Angeles	48	44	.227	-
San Diego	45	45	.216	1
Colorado	48	48	.211	1.5
San Francisco	40	50	.244	7.5

SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Boston 6, Detroit 4
New York 4, Baltimore 1
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4
Chicago 3, Kansas City 2
Oakland 5, Texas 1
Seattle 8, California 0
Toronto 7, Milwaukee 5 (10)

SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Houston 7, New York 5 (11, 1st)
New York 10, Houston 5 (2nd)
Atlanta 15, Florida 10
Montreal 5, Philadelphia 2
Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 6
St. Louis 7, Chicago 6
Colorado 8, San Diego 4
San Francisco 6, Los Angeles 0

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VEHICLES

General

Peretz warns gov't: Revoke economic program or face strike

HISTADRUT Chairman Amir Peretz yesterday called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor to have the courage to admit their mistake and cancel the government's economic program.

Unless the Treasury opens negotiations with the Histadrut by midnight to modify the draconian measures imposed on the weaker classes, the Histadrut will halt the entire economy tomorrow, in a 10-hour warning strike from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the option of a two-hour extension, Peretz said.

If the government revokes its economic decrees, Peretz said during the Knesset debate on the no-confidence motions on the economic program, it will save the stock market, as well as prevent unjust harm to low-income wage earners.

MICHAL YUDELMAN

"Now that the prime minister is back and we've finished the American chapter, it's time to revoke the cabinet decision taken so hastily and to make the right decisions," he added.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut continued its preparations for the strike. Michel Elmaliyah, head of the strike headquarters, issued instructions to all the large unions for the strike, which is to encompass the public sector, Civil Service, and government corporations, including the banks, health funds, El Al, airports, bus companies, trains, Israel Aircraft

Industries, the Electric Corporation, and local authorities.

At the same time, a group of the stronger unions is planning to set up a new labor federation, which will be able to take more militant action against the government.

These unions, which include Bezeq, IAI, the Electric Corporation, and the Israel Broadcasting Authority, maintain that the Histadrut is not aggressive enough in its fight against the government. They attacked the Histadrut leadership for shortening the strike to 10 hours and stressed that it should last for at least 24.

Strike may hit air travel

HAIM SHAPIRO

If you are going abroad tomorrow, your plans could be seriously affected by the planned general strike. It may keep everyone from air traffic controllers to baggage handlers off the job for 10 hours.

But the Airports Authority has petitioned Tel Aviv District Labor Court, seeking a restraining order which would stop the Histadrut strike at airports and border crossings.

In its petition, the authority said Ben-Gurion Airport is the country's only air gateway to the world, both for passengers and goods, and that the damage to the country and its economy would be enormous if the strike takes place.

If the court does not issue an order, the authority will have to notify all the airlines serving Israel, so they may move their flights forward or delay them, to avoid a situation in which incoming planes are unable to land.

Amidror appointed aide to defense minister

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

BRIG.-GEN. Ya'acov Amidror, who as head of the Intelligence Corps assessment division often presented views opposed to the former government's optimism on peace, has been appointed military aide to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Amidror's appointment, approved by Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, will take effect in the coming weeks, the IDF and Defense Ministry said in a joint statement.

Amidror was often seen at the Knesset Defense and Foreign Relations Committee, where he briefed MKs on IDF intelligence assessments, particularly regard-

ing the Syrians and Palestinians. He reportedly professed little faith in Syrian President Hafez Assad's readiness to make peace with Israel, and repeatedly pointed out the Palestinian Authority's unwillingness to seriously crack down on Islamic fundamentalists.

At one point, premier Shimon Peres prevented Amidror from flying to Washington to present a report on Palestinian infringements of the Oslo accords. The report was shipped on its own.

Amidror, 48, spent the bulk of his military career in intelligence. He is a graduate of the National Defense College and holds an M.A. in political science.

PM's aide firm on training accident testimony

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

MAJ.-GEN. Ze'ev Livne, the prime minister's military aide, has rejected claims by bereaved parents that he changed his testimony in an investigation into the death of a soldier in a training accident.

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel earlier demanded Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair investigate Livne over allegedly conflicting opinions he gave of a fellow officer's negligence in the accident.

The officer, Col. Moni Horev, was recently appointed head of the IDF Officers' Training School. But parents of Yanai Shoshan have gone to court to try to block the appointment. Horev was the Givati Brigade commander when Shoshan was mortally wounded when a fragmentation grenade went off in his webbing. An investigation found the 1994 accident occurred because Shoshan was not aware of safety regulations.

Horev and four other officers face indictment for causing death by negligence for not ensuring regulations were followed.

Livne, who was OC Ground Forces Command at the time, testified then that responsibility fell on Horev.

However, Horev has said he planned to submit evidence to a hearing by Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham showing that he was not the one responsible for making sure the safety regulations were known. He said he planned to call Livne to testify on his behalf.

The movement claims Livne either lied or was pressured to change his testimony.

Death threats to Meretz councilor over Bar-Ilan flap

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM City Councilor Ornan Yekutieli (Meretz), who is leading the fight to keep Rehov Bar-Ilan open on Shabbat, said yesterday he has received several death threats since the battle over the closure of the street heated up over the weekend.

"I've received three or four phone calls over the past two nights from people threatening to kill me," Yekutieli said. He said he had not filed a complaint with police.

"This is nothing new for me. I have been threatened in the past, and I didn't expect that things would be different this time," he said.

Yekutieli is finalizing plans for

a large demonstration this Saturday afternoon. Organizers have already asked the police for a permit for 2,000 demonstrators.

"I have always been opposed to violence, and our intention is not to escalate the tension," Yekutieli said. "We aren't going to protest on Rehov Bar-Ilan itself, but several meters away, at a spot we have protested at before."

Organizers include people from across the political spectrum, united in their support for keeping the street open, Yekutieli said. "This is not a Meretz demonstration. There is a group of

Jerusalem pub and cafe owners, most of them Likud activists, who are helping," he said.

Haredi activists, meanwhile, have vowed to bring out thousands of protesters for Rehov Bar-Ilan's closure on Shabbat. Police estimated over 10,000 haredim took part in last Saturday's unrest.

Mayor Ehud Olmert, just back from the US, called last Saturday's Meretz protest a "provocation."

"Can someone explain to me why, when the street is open, there is a need to have a motorcade?" he said. "If the same thing were done in an Arab neighborhood ... the entire world would jump up and complain."

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Warmer.

City	Forecast
Golan	17-27
Haifa	22-29
Thiberias	22-30
Ashdod	21-31
Samarita	17-28
Tel Aviv	23-29
Jerusalem	17-26
Beerseba	21-32
Dead Sea	27-39
Eilat	25-39

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	MOON	
	C	F	C
American	12	24	clear
Buenos Aires	12	23	partly
Chicago	12	23	partly
Copenhagen	12	23	partly
Hong Kong	12	23	clear
London	12	23	partly
Los Angeles	12	23	partly
Moscow	12	23	partly
Paris	12	23	partly
Rome	12	23	partly
Sydney	12	23	partly
Tokyo	12	23	partly
Toronto	12	23	partly
Zurich	12	23	partly

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Officer transferred after prison escape attempt

RAINE MARCUS

PRISONS Service Commissioner Arye Bibi has ordered the transfer of Yitzhak Elisha, the intelligence officer at Ashkelon's Shikma Prison, after an attempted escape by three security prisoners last Friday.

An investigation revealed that there was a breakdown in the prison's intelligence system and that the escape attempt should have been discovered in advance.

The prisoners - Nadav Zaluz, serving two life terms and 30 years for murder; Hamed Mahmud, serving 30 years for terror attacks; and Hafez Nimer, serving 20 years - have been moved to Beerseba Prison. They disguised themselves as women by wearing improvised dresses made from colored sheets, and slid down a hole they carved in their cell floor to the toilets below.

The attempted escape occurred on Friday morning when families of security prisoners had arrived to visit. At around 9 a.m., a warden noticed two figures leaving the lavatories and approaching the gate to the visiting rooms. The warden suspected they were men dressed in women's clothing. The third prisoner was captured as he stood near the gate.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the three had planned their escape in advance. Bibi ordered an immediate inquiry, which led to the temporary suspension of the intelligence officer.

"It should have been clear that something out of the ordinary was being planned, not necessarily an escape," said the spokesman.



Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand, a professor of chemistry, appears before a scientific conference in Jerusalem yesterday.

Thai princess urges protection of species that may bring cures

JUDY SIEGEL

PRINCESS Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand yesterday urged that the world's rapidly disappearing plant and animal species be protected, as they may produce medicines and other means to serve mankind.

A professor of organic chemistry and head of a research institute in Bangkok, she lectured in Jerusalem on "Natural Products for the Improvement of the Quality of Life." Making her third visit to Israel, she was a guest lecturer at the International Symposium on Sweeteners.

The conference, organized by the Hebrew University and the International Union of Pure and

Applied Chemistry, is being attended by experts from 14 countries and is the largest scientific meeting on the subject ever held.

The princess, 39, has received numerous honorary doctorates and awards, including UNESCO's Einstein Gold Medal, and was the World Health Organization's ambassador of goodwill.

Lecturing on the potential of numerous plants growing in her country for use as anti-cancer agents and sweeteners, she said species are being wiped out daily due to urbanization and destruction of tropical rain forests. It is

ironic, she noted, that "patent law protects corporations and individuals from having their ideas stolen, while nature's biodiversity is unprotected. Unless we take care of our natural resources now, it will be too late."

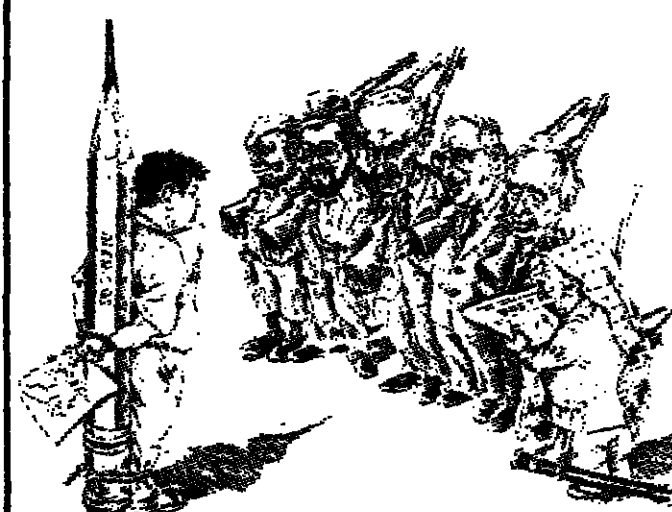
She recalled that when she was three years old, an Israeli expert came to her country to help set up a moshav with her father's help. In 1975, she underwent training in Israel. The princess, who wore a necklace with her name in Hebrew, said she is very impressed by the "wisdom and unity of Israel. I am an admirer of the people of Israel for their efforts to build a nation. I feel one of you."

Policeman caught with heroin

A TRAFFIC policeman who serves in the North was arrested yesterday on the Yokne'am-Zichron Ya'acov road. He had a bag of a substance suspected to be heroin in his possession.

The man, 30, was caught at a roadblock set up by police, who had been surveilling a drug dealer and saw him buy the package and drive off.

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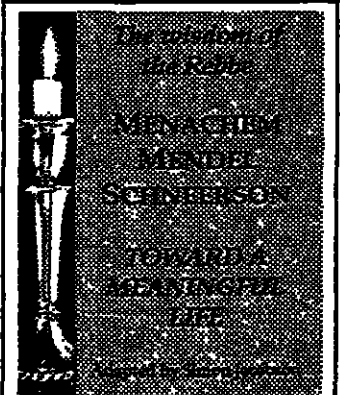
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Traffic accidents claim 19,000 lives since 1948

EVELYN GORDON

A NEWLY established Ministerial Committee on Traffic Accidents will submit its draft recommendations to the Knesset next week, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Former interior security minister Moshe Shahal revealed that the previous government had approved a five-year plan to combat traffic accidents last September, but a budget was never approved for it.

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-

Porat stressed that it is possible to reduce the number of accidents, and measures to do so should be implemented at any cost, because nothing is worth more than human life.

Since the establishment of the state, some 19,000 people have been killed in about 570,000 traffic accidents.

Levy said he favors setting up an authority to coordinate the work of the various government

bodies which deal with traffic accidents. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon promised a major effort to improve the quality of the nation's roads.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he would begin consultations with Ben-Porat and committee members on the possibility of setting up a state commission of inquiry into traffic accidents. A new law grants the committee the power to establish such a commission by a two-thirds vote, if Ben-Porat consents.

Hazorfim

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